

China Asks Patience on \$4 Billion in Bad Loans

**Liquidation of CITIC
Won't Start Until April
At Earliest, Banks Told**

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GUANGZHOU, China — Government officials Sunday told foreign creditors of China's biggest financial failure not to expect repayment soon of the \$4 billion they are owed soon.

At a meeting in Guangzhou, about 150 representatives of international banks, dominated by Hong Kong-based banks, were told that the liquidation of Guangdong International Trust & Investment Corp., also known as CITIC, would not begin for at least another three months.

"You're just not going to know what the assets are worth until the liquidation process starts," said Glenn Henriksen, head of Asia risk management at Bear Stearns Cos., who was among the creditors at the meeting.

CITIC became the first financial institution in modern Chinese history to default on an international bond on Oct. 26, when it missed an \$8.75 million

Russia says it will need help to pay its foreign debts this year. Page 11.

coupon payment on a U.S. dollar-denominated bond. It owes a total of \$4.07 billion to foreign and domestic creditors, including contingent liabilities, according to a statement by the Chinese group leading the liquidation.

Without the contingent liabilities — mainly guarantees to other companies and projects, many of which may not have to be repaid because of legal questions — the company still owes foreign creditors about \$1.2 billion more than it can pay. It had assets of 2.16 billion yuan (\$260.9 million) and liabilities of 3.62 billion yuan, the statement said.

China has said that it is likely to honor all of the debt that was officially registered and to negotiate the rest. Chinese officials said Sunday that all creditors would be treated equally.

"Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and America don't have preferential treatment" in their bankruptcy laws, said Wu Jiesi, the assistant governor of Guangdong Province. "China is moving toward a market economy, so it's my preference to go this way. All creditors should be treated equally under the law."

There were warnings, however, that the debt figures may well be incorrect. "It is difficult to make a correct judgment because of the existence of doubts about the integrity and accuracy of the data," a statement by the group leading the liquidation said.

Chinese officials said they had found 240 local and foreign companies wholly owned by CITIC, compared with the 132 companies acknowledged by the conglomerate.

The liquidation of CITIC is a "complex issue," a spokesman for the Guangzhou branch of the Chinese central bank said, "and no one should expect a final result in the near term."

"We never said that everything would be made clear by now," the spokesman said. "No deadline has been set for when the issue will be cleared up."

CITIC's financial arm was shut by the central bank in October. Creditors had until last week to make claims.

Creditors are waiting to hear how China will approach the liquidation. Bankers said the central government can either pay lenders directly and sift through CITIC's assets later or start selling its businesses and pay debts based on a ratio of the money raised to what is owed.

Creditors have said that repayment would allow the foreign banks to increase lending to other Chinese companies and projects. Such lending dried up after the company's failure.

Separately, the head of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the region's de facto central bank, said Sunday it would not require banks to make provisions for bad loans to CITIC.

"I hope banks can study the information available and make their own decisions," Joseph Yam, the head of the authority, said. "I do not think it is necessary for the monetary authority to issue guidelines."

"It is difficult to say how much of registered debt will be repaid, or if it will have priority," he said, referring to debt that had been registered with China's State Administration for Foreign Exchange. (Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters)

Newsstand Prices

Bahrain	1,000 BD	Malta	56 c
Cyprus	1.00 CYP	Nigeria	12500 Naira
Denmark	17 DKR	Oman	1,250 OR
Finland	12.00 FM	Qatar	10.00 QR
Gibraltar	5.085 GIP	Repub. Ireland	IR£ 1.10
Great Britain	UK £1.00	Saudi Arabia	10 SR
Egypt	1E 5.50	S. Africa	R16 ind VAT
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 DH
Kenya	K. Sh. 160	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	\$ 1.20
Kuwait	700 Fils	Zimbabwe	Zm.340.00



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Rebels of the Kosovo Liberation Army patrolling Sunday near Podujevo, in northern Kosovo, where Yugoslav Army tanks had bombarded mountain bases of the ethnic Albanian guerrillas the day before.

Standoff Over Hostages in Kosovo

Ethnic Albanians Won't Free 8 Soldiers Without Prisoner Exchange

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — Ethnic Albanian rebels in Kosovo who are holding eight Yugoslav soldiers said Sunday that they were demanding an "exchange of prisoners of war" in return for the captives' release.

The soldiers "will be released when an agreement has been concluded with American and European mediators on the exchange of prisoners of war, in line with international conventions," the Kosovo Liberation Army said in a statement released to the press here.

Members of a mission created by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe have been negotiating with the rebels for the release

of the eight soldiers. They were seized Friday near Stari Trg, a mining town 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of the regional capital, Pristina.

The seizures prompted the Yugoslav government to dispatch army units to the region, although it agreed to hold back from any further military action while the negotiations were under way.

Heinz Nitsch of the European observers — put in place to monitor a U.S.-brokered cease-fire that began in mid-October — visited the men Saturday and reported that they were all in good health.

The seizures added to a week of tension in the Serbian province, where

Yugoslav Army tanks bombarded mountain bases of the Kosovo Liberation Army near the town of Podujevo for several hours Saturday.

"The fact that talks are still going on is a positive sign," said Sandy Blyth, a spokesman for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Yugoslav Army has also been making a show of force around Stari Trg, a few kilometers from the mountains where the separatists were believed to be holding the soldiers.

Podujevo, in northern Kosovo, was quiet as were other areas where Yugo-

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A Serb War-Crimes Suspect Is Killed

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

PARIS — French soldiers shot and killed a suspected Bosnian Serb war criminal this weekend as he prepared to ram the soldiers with his vehicle at a mountain roadblock set up to arrest him, the second time a Bosnian Serb war-crimes suspect has been killed during an attempt to arrest him.

The shooting occurred Saturday near the town of Foca in the Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in an area 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Sarajevo that is monitored by French peacekeeping forces attached to the NATO-led Stabilization Force.

The suspect was Dragan Gavovic,

38, the former police chief of Foca and the senior officer listed in an eight-person indictment alleging Serbian atrocities, including rape, against Muslim civilians in and around Foca during 1992 and 1993, the first two years of the ethnic war that tore apart what was once Yugoslavia and left tens of thousands of civilians dead. Prosecutors said Mr. Gavovic's indictment was the first time that rape was treated as a war crime.

[Foca was reported to be calm Sunday. The Associated Press reported from Sarajevo, but a UN spokeswoman said five monitors for the United Nations' international police force were hurt in the town Saturday when a crowd of 100 angry residents surrounded their police station and some of them burst

inside. An officer from India and another from Portugal were still hospitalized and the three others, a Spaniard, a German and an American, were slightly injured, the spokeswoman said.]

According to information supplied by the French Defense Ministry, NATO and the UN International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, French soldiers at the roadblock barred the way to the vehicle Mr. Gavovic was driving.

When he drove toward the soldiers, they opened fire in what Secretary-General Javier Solana Madariaga of NATO described as self-defense. A doctor pronounced Mr. Gavovic dead on arrival at a local hospital.

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Malaysia Turns Its Back on Tycoons

'If We Are Going to Bail Out the Company, Why Does He Have to Stay?'

By Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR — When critics complain about Malaysia's brand of crony capitalism, the name that usually comes up first is Halim Saad, a boyish-looking millionaire who runs the country's largest infrastructure company.

Political connections do not get any better than this: Mr. Halim's company, Renong Bhd., was once the business arm of the governing political party. Over the past decade, Renong has secured many of the most prized government contracts, and Mr. Halim is a friend and protégé of Daim Zainuddin, the governing party's treasurer who was appointed finance minister Friday.

Yet Mr. Halim is in trouble, and so are many of the cash-strapped Malaysian cronies these days as the government

becomes increasingly reluctant to bail them out for fear of a public backlash.

Since economic turmoil swept through Southeast Asia 18 months ago, it has been fashionable, especially in the context of Malaysia, to speak of crony capitalism — close links between businessmen and governments. These links, the argument goes, are impediments to reform because bad management is not punished. Governments bail out companies, but the same faces remain at the top.

But the government's recent attitude toward some high-profile Malaysian companies in recent weeks, including Renong, tells a different story.

The Finance Ministry has rejected an initial plan to rescue Renong from its sea of debt, and the government has allowed foreign creditors to pursue defaulted debts.

"There is a feeling that if we are

going to put money in, why don't we take control?" said a government adviser who has spoken to both Mr. Daim and Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad about the issue.

Renong is not the only crony company in trouble.

The Malaysian central bank took control of the largest finance company in the country, MBF Finance Bhd., last week. Frustrated with the management of the company, the bank effectively fired the chief executive officer — a member of a high-profile family — and replaced him with a bureaucrat.

In December, the head of the country's largest financial-services group, RHB Bhd., ceded control of his company after the government helped restructure his debts.

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Clinton Is Warned: Avoid 'Nitpicking'

**Democratic Senators Caution
Against Move to Curtail Trial**

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The outlines of the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton became clearer Sunday as leading Democratic senators cautioned White House lawyers against seeking to cut the process short.

And while a remarkable list of 18 senators, appearing on television talk shows, proclaimed a desire to maintain a spirit of bipartisanship achieved Friday on a plan for the trial, they were split on almost every issue likely to arise.

Senator John Breaux, the chief deputy Democratic whip, warned Mr. Clinton's lawyers to offer a straight, factual defense and to avoid what he called "evidentiary nitpicking."

To move to dismiss the case before opening arguments are heard, on the ground that no impeachable offenses had been committed, "would be a mistake," he said. "I would caution them not to do that."

Clinton's impeachment found to damage Republicans. Page 3.

A senior Republican, Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, also said that a resolution to dismiss the case was unlikely to pass.

Under a plan unanimously endorsed Friday by the 100 senators, the White House has until Monday to respond to the formal summons that was served on Mr. Clinton on Friday by the senate sergeant at arms, James Ziglar.

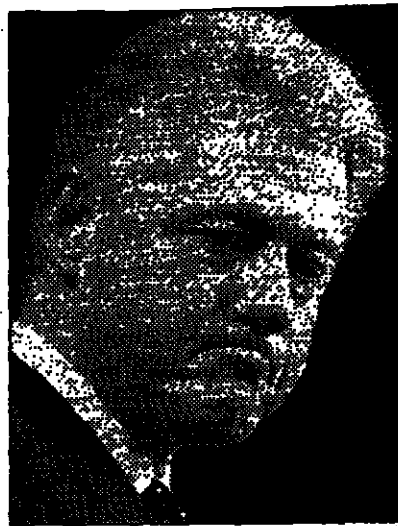
The Senate will reconvene Wednesday to allow Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who is presiding, to rule on motions. Opening presentations will begin Thursday and each side will have up to 24 hours, probably over three days, to make its case. Only then will the question of witnesses be brought up.

The senators will weigh charges that Mr. Clinton lied under oath to the grand jury investigating his relationship with Monica Lewinsky and that he sought to obstruct justice by trying to conceal his affair with her.

Mr. Clinton spent Sunday with his family, away from his lawyers. The president's legal team has promised "a vigorous, successful and complete defense," expressing confidence that there were not 67 votes in the Senate to approve Mr. Clinton's removal from office as the first U.S. president to be convicted after impeachment.

But while senators continued Sunday to praise the bipartisan exercise, it became clearer that a fundamental dispute — over whether witnesses, probably including Ms. Lewinsky, will be called — would reopen an angry breach once senators take it up. The outcome of that debate will powerfully affect the chances of concluding the trial by mid-February. Until the witness matter

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President Clinton faces a tough week.

U.S. Rejected Envoy's Pleas From Kenya Before Blast

By James Risen
and Benjamin Weiser
New York Times Service

In the spring of 1998, Prudence Bushnell, the U.S. ambassador to Kenya, sent an emotional letter to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright begging for the secretary's personal help.

Ms. Bushnell, a career diplomat, had been fighting for months for a more secure embassy in the face of mounting terrorist threats and a warning that she was the target of an assassination plot. The department had repeatedly refused to grant her request, citing a lack of money. But that kind of response, she wrote Mrs. Albright, was "endangering the lives of embassy personnel."

The CIA and the FBI had been amassing increasingly ominous and detailed clues about potential threats in Kenya, officials said. But the State Department bureaucracy still dismissed Ms. Bushnell. She was even seen by some at the State Department as a nuisance who was overly obsessed with security, according to one official.

Mrs. Albright took no action. And three months later, on Aug. 7, the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya were simultaneously attacked with car bombs. Twelve American diplomats and more than 200 Africans were killed in Kenya.

The State Department has acknowledged that Ms. Bushnell raised questions about security before the bombing. But a close examination of events in the year before the assaults, based on interviews with officials throughout the U.S. government, shows her concerns were more intense, more well-founded, more specific and more forcefully expressed than has previously been known.

The review shows that: • The CIA repeatedly told State Department officials in Washington and in the Kenya embassy that there was an active terrorist cell in Kenya connected to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi exile who is accused of masterminding the attack.

• The CIA and FBI investigated at least three terrorist threats in Nairobi in the year before the bombing and took one seriously enough to send a counterterrorism team from CIA headquarters. The agency ultimately concluded that

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Chinese Aspire to the 'Big Nose' Look

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — Lang Wenyu, a slight 26-year-old woman with a contagious case of the giggles, lay on an operating table in a hospital in Beijing.

"Of course it's because I want to become beautiful," she said, her face wrapped in white cloth and her tiny nose poking out from the swaddling. Three doctors hovered nearby. One prepared a scalpel. Another kneaded a small ball of paste.

Miss Lang's nose was the object. In less than an hour, it was going to double in size. And the shop clerk from Hebei Province would become another star-

istic among the growing number of Chinese who are embracing plastic surgery in the search for beauty, marriage and a happier life.

"It will help me find a boyfriend," Miss Lang intoned with confidence.

Minutes later Zhou Xiaoling, one of the chief plastic surgeons in Beijing, sliced open her diminutive schnozzle and inserted the paste, raising and turning the pert tip into a bit of a hook. "My two friends did it and their love lives started. I'm ready for mine to start, too," Miss Lang said.

For the first few decades of Communist China's existence, beauty was bourgeois and bad. Beauty is still bourgeois, but in today's China bourgeois is

good. So good, in fact, that young men and women are falling over themselves to improve their appearances, embracing plastic surgery, gyms, dance halls, swimming pools, diets and beauty salons with a passion for pulchritude not seen since the Roaring 20s in Shanghai.

From \$1 billion a year in the early 1990s, women's purchases of cosmetics have rocketed to \$4.2 billion, according to the Beijing-based 21st Century Market Research Corp. Men are jumping into the fray as well, slapping on skin creams and rare oils with a passion almost equaling their sisters.

"If I have a bigger nose, I think I will

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The War at Home / England's Struggle With Animal Rights

Going to Extremes in the Battle Against Testing

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

OXFORD, England — Colin Blakemore, Wayneville Professor of Physiology at Oxford and director of the university's Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, spends his days like any academic in an office with brimming in-trays and bookshelves stacked high with research volumes.

Nights he's at home in an undisclosed suburb in a house surrounded by high fences, security cameras, alarms and tripwire lights and configured inside with shielded doors, hidden intercoms and a front hallway blocked from view to deny direct access to any shooter outside. His mail has been examined closely ever since the police five years ago intercepted a gift for his teenage daughter in Christmas wrapping that turned out to be a cardboard container filled with high explosives and needles.

His work has won him awards for advances in the treatment of vision problems in infants and young children. But it has also attracted the attention of a violence-prone movement that says it wants to kill him because his research depends on animal testing.

His enemies are members of groups with flag of convenience names like the Animal Liberation Front, the Justice Department, the Animals Betrayed Coalition, Band of Mercy and the Animal Rights Militia.

They are clandestine organizations that have taken a passion long associated with England — the care and welfare of animals — and transformed it into a ski-masked movement with absolutist notions and the tactics of terror in defense of "our animal brothers and sisters." A number of its members are serving long prison terms for bombing campaigns against corner drug stores, laboratories, woolen mill shops, kennels, slaughterhouses, refrigerator trucks, fishmongers, butchers and animal breeding farms.

THE FIRST animal welfare group in the world was founded in England, in 1824, and the country has 3,000 such organizations today. Far from representing just the cuddly house pets that get protection in most societies, England is famed to the point of lampooning for having groups dedicated to the preservation of bats, frogs, insects and rodents.

The fringe groups have left the civilities of the traditional cause behind. They are disciplined and organized with safe houses, secret bank accounts, codes, Internet mailing lists, and bomb-making instruction manuals. Scotland Yard's special anti-terror branch has a data bank called the Animal Rights National Index.

Though about 15,000 British scientists use animals like mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits, cats and monkeys to research diseases and produce medi-



It is a pity, says Colin Blakemore, 'that terrorism has contaminated such an important and significant ethical and moral issue as the question of what right do we have to use animals in our service.'

cines, Dr. Blakemore, a 54-year-old Cambridge graduate with a doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley, has been prominent in defending the practice as essential to the progress of medical science.

On the Animal Liberation Front website, Dr. Blakemore and his fellow medical researchers are likened to Nazis. "If we are trespassing," it says, "than so were the soldiers who broke down the gates of Hitler's death camps."

The number of animal experiments in Britain has declined in the past 25 years from 7 million a year to 2.6 million, and the code of conduct governing them is the toughest in the world under a restrictive law passed in 1987. The levels of care demanded often exceed legal standards for the housing and feeding of human beings in vulnerable circumstances.

But the activists want all testing to cease and have backed up their argument by threatening to assassinate 10 scientists who believe in animal experimentation. Dr. Blakemore and two other researchers who have joined him in denouncing the movement head the list.

"Everyone hopes for the time when animals won't be needed at all," he said. "That would be marvelous. I'd be the first to crack the Champagne. But to pretend that we are there now is not only a misrepresentation, it is actually dangerous."

Security at his home was tightened recently and new border gates were installed in the narrow streets threading through Oxford's Gothic campus buildings because of stepped-up threats. The police say that the protection he receives is modeled on that afforded Britons on Irish Republican Army hit lists in the 1980s.

The government has not denounced the activists as firmly as Dr. Blakemore would like, but last month it said it was going to replace laws created in the 1970s to address the IRA threat with a single act

that would expand the definition of terrorism to include religious and ideological as well as political motives.

Jack Straw, the home secretary, specified that would include "animal rights activists who perpetrate serious acts of terrorist violence."

The militants' cause galvanized last month around Barry Horne, a 46-year-old former garbage man serving an 18-year prison sentence for arson attacks on shopping centers who, 60 days into a hunger strike, said he would starve himself to death unless the government created a commission to discuss the end of animal experimentation.

The government this fall banned all animal testing in connection with cosmetics, alcohol and tobacco products, but said it would not be persuaded by the threats to do more. "No government can surrender to blackmail, and we won't do it in this case," said George Howarth, a minister at the Home Office.

Mr. Horne's backers said that when he died, the 10 scientists would be killed. The list was posted on the Internet, and Mr. Horne said from his hospital bed: "People must do what they feel is right in response to my death. Look at the evil of the Nazis and the level of violence needed — quite rightly — to stop them."

Dr. Blakemore urged Mr. Horne to spare himself and offered to meet with his supporters. Spokesmen representing mainstream rights groups denounced the self-starvation tactic and said it would harm the image of those battling for the cause by legitimate means.

Mr. Horne abandoned his hunger strike on Dec. 14, after 68 days, quitting at the 11th hour as he had done twice before last year, after fasts of 35 and 46 days.

Dr. Blakemore said he was determined to continue with efforts to combat what he considers propaganda and disinformation about animal testing. He argued that it was impossible to come up with any form of conventional medical treatment that had not at some point in its development depended on research on animals.

TO THE ARGUMENT that computer technology has made animal experimentation unnecessary, Dr. Blakemore said: "The way to focus on that question is to note that the law in this country requires you to demonstrate that there is no alternative to the use of animals before you can get a project license. It is a criminal offense in this country."

Holding a printout of the Internet death list, Dr. Blakemore said defending himself had taken up 20 percent of his work time since the threats against him began. "It is such a pity," he said, "that terrorism has contaminated such an important and significant ethical and moral issue as the question of what right do we have to use animals in our service."

Tomatoes Are Flying In Israel's Campaign

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — Hardly had Israel's election campaign begun when the Battle of the Confidential Phone Numbers was joined.

The first shot was fired by Danny Naveh, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's closest aide, who publicly announced Yasser Arafat's office number. He sneeringly suggested that Ehud Barak, candidate of the opposition Labor Party, phone the Palestinian leader and promise that Labor would be a pushover at the negotiating table.

What happened next was predictable. So many Israelis, many of them anti-Arab extremists, called Mr. Arafat's office with abusive comments that the switchboard was swamped.

So the Palestinians retaliated. They announced Mr. Naveh's home number. Can it be long before Mr. Netanyahu's private number becomes part of Israel's political mud bath?

The campaign for the May 17 election has just begun, and it is likely to last until a runoff June 1. But already it has achieved a level of nastiness remarkable even by Israeli standards, which tend to make American political dialogue sound like a conversation among saints.

For his two and a half years in office, it has been difficult to pick up a newspaper without seeing Mr. Netanyahu called a liar in its pages. A good number of his own cabinet ministers have accused him of doing violence to the truth. Mr. Netanyahu has responded with what few regard as a mean-spiritedness unique in Israel's political history.

Now, it seems, both sides have decided on a new tack: no more Mr. Nice Guy.

On Wednesday, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Israel's popular former military chief of staff, announced his candidacy by deriding Mr. Netanyahu as "dangerous for Israel."

On Thursday, General Lipkin-Shahak received his comeuppance. On his first day of campaigning, he ventured into a Tel Aviv street market only to be greeted with flying tomatoes and chicken parts, shaken fists and chants of "Bibi! Bibi!" — the prime minister's nickname.

Despite the heat generated by General Lipkin-Shahak, who polls suggest would defeat Mr. Netanyahu in a runoff if he gets that far, the main polemic crossfire has been between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Barak.

This week, Mr. Netanyahu's Likud party, under the tutelage of an American Republican political consultant, Arthur Finkelstein, unveiled a set of slogans whose thrust is to denigrate Mr. Barak's record as a military commander. On its face that might seem a cliché, but since Mr. Barak also is a former military chief of staff, a leader of daring commando raids and Israel's most decorated army officer.

No matter. The Likud posters insist Mr. Barak "flies from" the truth and responsibility, a not-so-subtle reminder that Mr. Barak, as chief of staff, once was accused of leaving the scene of a lethal training accident rather than tend to the wounded. Although he has denied the allegations, and an official inquiry cleared him, the posters served notice that the incident is likely to be revived in the campaign.

The Likud posters also revisit a famous gaffe by the Labor Party candidate, who once said, "If I were a Palestinian, I would join a terrorist organization."

Mr. Barak, who has hired a trio of Democratic Party advisers who are close to President Bill Clinton — James Carville, Stanley Greenberg and Robert Shrum — was quick to respond. He declared that Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, leader of the Islamic extremist group Hamas, owed his freedom to Mr. Netanyahu and was content with his government. Mr. Netanyahu freed Mr. Yassin from a prison in 1997 in a swap for Israeli agents who botched an assassination attempt against a Hamas leader in Jordan.

"I regret the prime minister is dragging this campaign into the gutter," Mr. Barak said. "But he asked for it, and we have to respond."

So barely two weeks into the campaign, major candidates have impugned

each other's honor and suggested the other is in league with the Palestinians. That might suggest there is nowhere to go but up. But few analysts predict a cleaner race than the one taking shape.

The venom of political rhetoric might be traced to the increasingly narrow ideological space that separates the major candidates. On the crucial issue of dealing with the Palestinians, Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Barak and General Lipkin-Shahak have all accepted the principle of trading land for peace and security. The main debate, therefore, is not about the framework of a deal, but who would be able to secure better terms for Israel on the questions of borders, refugees and the status of Jerusalem, which each side claims as its rightful capital.

With comparatively little, no dispute, one candidate from the other, the fight is largely about personality, character and leadership, which may explain its bitterness.

Still, harsh words have a special resonance in Israel, where the lingering memory of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination in 1995 remains a trauma for many. Before he was shot by an ultranationalist at a peace rally, Mr. Rabin had been branded a traitor by opponents of the Oslo peace deal he had signed with Mr. Arafat — much as Mr. Netanyahu was called a traitor after signing the U.S.-brokered Wye River agreement in October.

Already there have been at least two death threats uttered publicly.

One threat was from a small man in a black skullcap who trailed General Lipkin-Shahak through the Tel Aviv market Thursday, muttering, "The next bullet will be in your head." He is being sought by the police.

The other came from an Israeli security guard who was arrested at Mr. Barak's first campaign appearance when he was overheard saying the Labor Party candidate and other Likud Jewish "do-gooders" of European descent should be shot.

The chilling prospect of another assassination has spooked internal security chiefs, who blanket the major candidates with bodyguards and keep Mr. Netanyahu at a distance from crowds.

No Decision Near On Pollard Case

By Walter Pincus
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton has set no deadline for a decision on whether to commute the life sentence of Jonathan Jay Pollard, the former civilian analyst for the U.S. Navy who sold top secret information to Israel in the mid-1980s, a White House spokesman says.

Last month, Mr. Clinton asked the top national security agencies to comment on whether Mr. Pollard should receive clemency; the recommendations were due to be sent Monday to the White House counsel, Charles Ruff.

The deadline has prompted rumors on Capitol Hill that a decision was imminent. But the spokesman, J.P. Crowley, denied that any decision would come soon. "There is no judgment and no deadline to finish the review," he said.

At the conference in October to receive the Middle East peace talks, the president told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel that he would review Mr. Pollard's case after the Israeli made clemency a requirement before he would sign a pact with Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority. Mr. Clinton has twice turned down requests for early release for Mr. Pollard.

The flurry of rumors prompted the chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, Richard Shelby, Republican of Alabama, to call on other senators to encourage Mr. Clinton "to rethink what I understand may be his expected course of action." And the chairman of the House intelligence committee, Porter Goss of Florida, wrote a newspaper column last week opposing clemency.

The head of the Central Intelligence Agency, George Tenet, told Mr. Clinton during the October talks that he would find it difficult to remain as director if Mr. Pollard were released, sources said.

French Inquiry Reported To Blame Diana's Driver

Reuters

LONDON — The French investigation into the Paris car crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, her companion, Dodi Fayed, and their driver in 1997 has concluded that no one left alive is to blame, the Sunday Mirror reported.

The newspaper said that, according to the excerpts, the only person who could have been held responsible — the driver, Henri Paul — was dead.

The investigation, led by Herve Stephan, a judge, began soon after Diana's death in September 1997 and was completed last week, the London newspaper said. It said it had obtained key segments of the report despite the strict security that surrounded it.

"From the overall examination of the known factors, the accident may be due to excess speed, the peculiar characteristics of the road, the presence of a Fiat Uno at the mouth of the tunnel and the poor control of the vehicle by the driver," the newspaper quoted the report as saying.

Investigators have consistently blamed the crash on the high speed at which Mr. Paul drove the car and the high level of alcohol in his blood at the time of the accident.

The Sunday Mirror said manslaughter charges brought against photographers and a dispatch rider who pursued the car after it left the Ritz Hotel would be dropped. The photographers who were the first to reach the crash scene would face only minor charges, the newspaper said, and the managers of the Ritz Hotel

would not be tried for corporate manslaughter. The Ritz is owned by Dodi's father, Mohamed al Fayed.

The owners of the limousine company that provided the car would not face any charges for not providing a driver for the car when one was requested, the Sunday Mirror added.

Only the princess' bodyguard, Trevor Rees-Jones, survived the crash, with severe injuries.

Rhys-Jones's Plea: 'No Tiara'

Sophie Rhys-Jones, who is to marry Prince Edward later this year, has told the queen that she does not want to be a princess — because of what she considers would be the inevitable comparisons with Diana, Agence France-Presse reported from London.

The British press reported Sunday that Ms. Rhys-Jones already resents the media comparisons of her strong resemblance to the late princess. And the Sunday Telegraph said she had told Queen Elizabeth that she did not want to become a princess when she marries the monarch's youngest son.

Nor does she want to be known as Her Royal Highness the Princess Edward, which would be her official title, believing it is old-fashioned to be known by her husband's name.

The solution would be for the queen to make Edward a duke — royal experts say the Dukedom of Cambridge was the most likely.

Edward, 34, and Miss Rhys-Jones, 33, announced their engagement last week after five years of dating.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Mount Etna Rumbles

In 4-Hour Light Show

CATANIA, Sicily (Reuters) — Mount Etna, Europe's tallest and most active volcano, spewed rocks, lava and ash Sunday in a fresh explosion of minor activity that lit up the night sky.

The eruptions lasted about four hours and were accompanied by minor seismic activity. Ash fell near the village of Fiumefreddo, east of the volcano.

An official at the Catania Volcanology Institute said there was no danger to residents of towns on the lower slopes.

Ice Coats Highways

In Northeastern U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — A long line of snow, sleet and rain rolled across the eastern United States over the weekend, coating roads with ice in the Northeast and soaking parts of the South.

Snow fell from Ohio and West Virginia across Pennsylvania and New York State into northern New England. Freezing rain and sleet extended across parts of eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and central New England. Fog blanketed the Washington area Saturday morning, halting arrivals at Reagan National Airport for three hours.

U.S. Sets Cold-Testing Of Allison Jet Engines

WASHINGTON (AP) — Operators of 120 U.S. commercial and business jets were ordered to perform cold-

weather engine tests after three in-flight engine shutdowns last week.

The affected engines, Allison 3007A and 3007C models, are on Embraer 145 and Cessna 750 aircraft. The Embraer is used on short flights by Continental Express, American Eagle and Trans States airlines. The Cessna is a corporate jet.

Heavy Snow in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Heavy snow trapped about 100 passengers for 12 hours in an overnight train at Hamakita, about 480 kilometers west of Tokyo, the Kyodo News Agency reported, as storms dumped more than a half meter of snow on central and northern Japan over the weekend.

The Meteorological Agency warned that it could snow through Monday. At Tokyo's Haneda airport, 22 domestic flights were canceled Saturday.

Malaysia Airlines suspended flights to Vancouver, British Columbia, on Saturday, and on Monday it was to increase the number of weekly flights to Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney in Australia, as well as to Amsterdam and Los Angeles. (APF)

WEATHER

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by AccuWeather.



Legend: 0-100% Cloudy, 100% Cloudy, 100% Rain, 100% Snow, 100% Thunder, 100% Wind.

Maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. 01688 - http://www.accuweather.com

North America

AccuWeather's National Outlook: A storm system will bring heavy snow and rain to the Great Lakes region and the Ohio River valley through Thursday. Heavy rain and snow will continue to the south. A cold front will bring heavy rain and snow to the Southeast through Thursday.

AccuWeather's National Outlook: A cold front will bring heavy rain and snow to the Southeast through Thursday. A cold front will bring heavy rain and snow to the Southeast through Thursday.

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MEMORIAL

Francis M.L. Black (Paris, France)

His wife, Patricia, his children and all those who shared his adventures, a memorial mass to honor Francis and to celebrate his life will take place on Sunday 17th January, 1999, at 17.00. Chapelle de Saint Patrick, College des Irlandais, 5 rue des Irlandais, 75005 Paris.

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This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices may be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Albania, Colombia, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Venezuela.

TUESDAY: Tanzania, Turkmenistan.

WEDNESDAY: Lithuania.

THURSDAY: Macedonia.

FRIDAY: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Israel, Japan, Malawi, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka.

SATURDAY: Bangladesh.

Sources: Bloomberg, Reuters.

Education

every Monday in The International

Europe

City	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Amsterdam	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Antwerp	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Athens	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Birmingham	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Bombay	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Boston	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Buenos Aires	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Calcutta	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Cardiff	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Chennai	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Cairo	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Canton	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Cebu	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Dallas	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Dhaka	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Dubai	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Edinburgh	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Hankow	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Hong Kong	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Kobe	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
London	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Los Angeles	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Manila	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Mumbai	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Nairobi	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
San Francisco	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Singapore	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Taipei	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Tokyo	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Yokohama	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8

North America

City	High	Low	High	Low
Albuquerque	10/12	5/8	10/12	5/8
Anchorage	10/			

ASIA/PACIFIC

With Khmer Rouge Collapse, Pressure Grows to Rein In Army

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

PHNOM PENH — After the collapse of the Khmer Rouge as an effective guerrilla force and the formation of a new coalition government between previously warring political factions, the Cambodian armed forces are under increasing pressure to curb corruption and human rights abuses and to slim down and become more professional.

Foreign governments and international institutions that provide vital aid to Cambodia are urging the government to prevent such abuses, apply the rule of law and improve administration.

But some Cambodian and foreign analysts said they were concerned that years of fighting and lawlessness in many parts of the country, and the previously close political alliance between

the governing Cambodian People's Party of Prime Minister Hun Sen and key commanders of the security forces, have so entrenched the military in power that it will be very difficult to dislodge.

Moreover, many generals — there are several hundred in the army — and the senior officers under them have secured lucrative interests in illegal logging, smuggling and the protection of casinos and brothels, analysts said. Before reform can proceed, the analysts said, the military must integrate over the next three months thousands of former Khmer Rouge rebels, as well as government soldiers who sided with royalist commanders in the factional fighting of July 1997.

The government must also be assured of tens of millions of dollars in foreign aid, they said, so that when surplus troops are eventually demobilized they

can become farmers or urban workers — and not turn to crime for a living.

"If we can pacify the country, we can downsize the military, make the army more professional and reduce its role in politics," Khieu Kanharith, the government's spokesman, said in an interview. He said that the government planned to reduce the size of the armed forces, which officially have about 140,000 men, to between 30,000 and 40,000 troops by around 2005.

"Demobilization must go hand in hand with vocational training," he said. "Most of the soldiers are former farmers. Basically, all they need are housing and land. But some will want to be trained for nonfarm work."

Mr. Kanharith added that the government had asked the World Bank and the International Labor Organization to provide about \$40 million for voca-

tional training, housing and land costs, and an accelerated program to clear tens of thousands of landmines so more agricultural areas can be safely reopened.

"Because there was never sufficient money in the budget, the military was given logging concessions by the government," a foreign military analyst said. "But nearly all the money goes to the commanders, not the soldiers. That's why they resort to banditry or set up checkpoints on roads to exact illegal tolls." He said that less than 10,000 of the troops in the army were adequately trained, while at least 30,000 were "phantom" soldiers, registered so that corrupt officers could pocket their pay of about \$10 a month.

"The armed forces, including the police and village militia, are among the worst violators of human rights," said Lao Mong Hay, executive director of the

Cambodian Institute of Democracy. International aid donors, including the World Bank, will meet with Cambodian officials in Tokyo next month to discuss reform and decide how much assistance Phnom Penh will get in 1999. Finance Minister Keat Chhon said last week that the government would request \$1.3 billion for a three-year program to bolster the economy.

In a move analysts said was intended to create a favorable atmosphere for that meeting, Mr. Hun Sen on Jan. 6 ordered an intensified crackdown on illegal logging, which is draining government coffers of urgently needed revenue and causing serious environmental damage. "The armed forces must cooperate with the forestry authorities and other involved institutions and use all means, including weapons, in the crackdown operation," he said. "Even though the government has taken action against illegal logging, there are still some anarchic operations going on." Mr. Hun Sen said the authorities would confiscate illegally sawed logs and logging equipment and file lawsuits against those responsible.

Kao Kim Houn, executive director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, said that the government had taken some steps toward reform but that he was worried there were "too many warlords" standing in the way of real progress. "They don't really respect orders from Phnom Penh," he said. "They have been able to generate a lot of money that has bought weapons and loyalty. This is a big problem for Cambodia."

Still, Mr. Hun Sen appears to be determined to seize the opportunity to assert Phnom Penh's control over the provinces and to revive flagging economic growth and investment, following the recent defection of two of the remaining three top Khmer Rouge leaders to the government side.

"This is perhaps the first time in Cambodia's history since the Second World War that the government is in a position to control the entire territory, without secessionist zones as in the past," Mr. Hun Sen noted recently. He said that as stability returns, the size of the armed forces must be reduced so that more money can be spent on health, education and social welfare.

BRIEFLY

Opposition Assails Mahathir's Choice

KUALA LUMPUR — Opposition leaders criticized Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad over the weekend, saying his announcement of a successor was "a desperate exercise" to regain public confidence.

Late Friday, Mr. Mahathir named Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, 59, as deputy prime minister as well as home minister, a job that Malaysian prime ministers traditionally have held themselves. Mr. Mahathir fired his former deputy, Anwar Ibrahim, Sept. 2 amid allegations of sexual misconduct. (AP)

Arsenic Pollutes Bangladesh Wells

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Tests on 50,000 tube wells in Bangladesh — a source of water for most of the population — have shown that about 40 percent are too contaminated with arsenic to provide drinking water, a World Bank official said Sunday.

Babar Kabir, head of the bank's water and sanitation program, said a series of tests had confirmed the presence of arsenic beyond permissible levels in 40 percent of the tube wells in 200 villages in 22 districts. (Reuters)

4 Die in Aceh Raid

JAKARTA — Four people died after being beaten by security forces in the troubled province of Aceh in an unsuccessful raid to capture a rebel leader, Indonesian military and human-rights groups said Sunday.

Colonel Johnny Wabab, the military commander in Lhokseumawe, about 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) northwest of Jakarta, confirmed the deaths. Twenty people were reported injured. The rebel leader escaped. (Reuters)

Indian Leader Assails Church Burnings

In Gujarat, Vajpayee Calls for 'Exemplary Punishment' for Attacks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

AHWA, India — Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee visited a violence-torn tribal area in the western state of Gujarat on Sunday and urged stiff punishment for those behind a series of attacks on the Christian minority.

"Exemplary punishment should be awarded to perpetrators of such crimes," Mr. Vajpayee said in Ahwa, a village where a Hindu group attacked a church last month.

Several social workers who met with Mr. Vajpayee sought a ban on religious conversions, which sometimes have led to Hindu-Muslim or Hindu-Christian riots.

"It is necessary to build a consensus that will be in the interest of all communities," Mr. Vajpayee said. He called for a debate on the conversions.

Nearly 82 percent of India's population is Hindu, with Muslims representing 12 percent and Christians and Sikhs about 2 percent each.

Most of the Christians live in four southern states, where such clashes have been rare for decades.

The recent clashes occurred mainly in Gujarat, where two small fundamentalist groups allied with the governing party attacked churches and schools run by Christian missionaries. They marked a violent end to a year that saw more than 60 cases

nationwide of church and Bible burning, rape and assaults.

Priests and nuns led by Bishop Godfrey, the highest-ranking prelate in Gujarat, met Mr. Vajpayee to recount tales of church burnings and stonings that went on for several days after Christmas. "India is secular, and in this country to target places of worship, whether a church or a temple, is not just a crime but also a step that will break the unity of this country," Mr. Vajpayee said.

Hindus in the impoverished Dangs tribal belt said a Christian group started the clashes by throwing stones at a Hindu rally on Christmas Day and that a few retaliatory attacks had been blown out of proportion.

Analysts said the attacks were politically motivated.

Mr. Vajpayee's rightist Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party rose to power on a blend of "Hindutva," or Hinduness, and moderation. Since the party's poor showings in three state elections in November, Mr. Vajpayee and the party's pragmatists have tried to tame the hard-line Hindu ideologues of the party's parent organization.

Mr. Vajpayee's arrival in the Dangs region came just after that of Sonia Gandhi, the opposition Congress Party leader, who visited Friday. (Reuters, AP)



A woman in Pakistan paying tribute Sunday to victims of mob attacks on Christian churches in India.



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BOOKS

THE SEARCH FOR THE GIANT SQUID

By Richard Ellis. 322 pages. \$35. The Lyons Press.

Reviewed by Michael Dirda

THE giant squid has been known by many names — kraken, devil fish, Scylla, sea serpent, gigantic cuttlefish, Architeuthis. The beast itself is the stuff of nightmares: tentacles up to 60 feet long (or more), a six-inch parrotlike beak near the maw, chromatophores that allow the animal to change its skin color instantly, huge axons that transmit neurological messages "faster than any other creature," and lidless eyes the size of hubcaps, the largest in the animal kingdom. In folklore its monstrous tentacles (10 of them, unlike the eight of the octopus) snake out of the depths to drag unsuspecting sailors, even entire ships, to a watery doom. Actual sucker marks on the brows of sperm whales testify to great combats in the abyssal depths of the ocean. And though giant squid occasionally wash up dead on the beaches of Newfoundland, New Zealand and Norway, to this day nobody has ever seen one alive in the water. It remains one of the most mysterious, and haunting, of earth's creatures.

Richard Ellis is a marine painter and self-described cryptozoologist, that is, a student of hidden or unknown animals. In 1995 he brought out "Monsters of the Sea," devoting chapters to sharks, whales, mermaids, squids, and strange biots and globsters; last year he published "Imagining Atlantis," a survey of the lore and speculation surrounding the famous antediluvian world. Both these books deftly mingle mythology with either biology or history, resulting in high-grade intellectual entertainment — Ellis serves up, with equal relish, dispassionate scientific findings, the

fantasies of obsessed crackpots, episodes from half-forgotten sensation novels, and scenes out of B-grade movies.

He continues this successful formula in "The Search for the Giant Squid," a book that lists every known Architeuthis sighting and stranding, includes a chapter on the making of giant squid models for museums, and expounds in some detail the efforts to classify, understand and observe this elusive cephalopod. When he wants to, Ellis can make his science almost science-fictional: "It is now assumed that the sperm whale captures its prey by emitting focused sound beams of such intensity that they can stun or even kill the prey," in particular the giant squid. Most of the battles between these Leviathans take place at depths where neither hunter nor hunted can see each other in the icy-cold blackness. Yet "the weight of giant squids eaten every year by sperm whales is greater than the weight of the entire human race." Astonishing. But the factual matter in the book has been vetted by the Smithsonian Institution's Clyde Roper, the world's leading authority on Architeuthis.

Still, say "giant squid" and few people will think of a carcass on a beach or the disgorged contents of a dead whale's stomach. Most of us will remember the thrilling scene in the 1954 movie "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea," when the crew of the Nautilus battles a ferocious monster squid in a hurricane, and Ned Land saves the life of Captain Nemo by driving a harpoon into the writhing nightmare's brain.

Ellis devotes a leisurely chapter to the giant squid in literature and film, touching on Tennyson's early poem "The Kraken," Ian Fleming's "Dr. No," Michael Crichton's "Sphere," Arthur C. Clarke's "The Deep Range," Annie Proulx's "The Shipping News," H.G. Wells's short story "The Sea Raiders,"

and Peter Benchley's "Beast."

In comparing "The Search for the Giant Squid" to the chapters on the beast in "Monsters of the Deep" I noticed that some of the more melodramatic steel cuttings, paperback covers and movie stills had been left out of this book-length treatment. Was this an effort to emphasize sober science over garish folk belief? And was this why there was no allusion to the squid as an avatar of that favorite motif of pop psychology, the vagina dentata?

More generally, Ellis's easygoing prose suffers from needless repetitions — on page 150, for instance, we learn that certain species of squid "has an almost worldwide distribution" and on page 152 that the same animal is "worldwide in distribution."

So "The Search for the Giant Squid" could have been more tightly edited and a just a bit flashier. But Ellis is fun to read, knowledgeable and enthusiastic. Moreover, Lyons Press has produced a beautiful book, starting with its striking dust jacket (the author's own painting of a reddish giant squid with an enormous staring eye) and continuing with generous margins, thick paper and lots of drawings and photographs. More books should look this good.

This is the sort of volume — like the studies of exotic zoology by the late Willy Ley — that 14-year-olds dream over, peering rapturously at the old engravings, imagining the spectacle of a giant squid locked in battle with a sperm whale. Of course, in the face of this monstrous monster of the lid, even adults will tend to feel a little awestruck. As Tennyson wrote, "his ancient, dreamless, uninvaded sleep! The Kraken sleepeth" — until, that is, the Earth's last fiery days, when "once by man and angels to be seen, / In roaring he shall rise."

Washington Post Service



Freetown residents peering out of their house during weekend clashes.

Centrist Parties Win in Nigeria

Agence France-Presse

LAGOS — The center-left People's Democratic Party won state elections, resulting Sunday, confirming it as the leading political party in Nigeria as the country took another step toward ending military rule.

The People's Democratic Party, led by General Olusegun Obasanjo, a former military ruler, won 18 governorships, against nine for the center-right All People's Party and six for the radical Alliance for Democracy, out of 33 confirmed results.

Millions turned out Saturday to elect governors and assemblies for 35 of Nigeria's 36 states in the second of a series of elections due to return Nigeria to civilian rule in May.

One state, Bayelsa, where troops and residents clashed last month, did not have a vote.

The Alliance for Democracy secured a widely predicted victory in the economic capital, Lagos, when Bola Tinubu was elected governor. It was a remarkable turnaround for Mr. Tinubu, an exiled opponent of the late General Sani Abacha who returned to Nigeria only late last year.

The state vote will be followed by legislative and presidential polls next month to complete the election of multiple levels of civilian government. Local elections were held in December.

A return to civilian rule has been promised for May 29. Since independence in 1960, the military, headed since June by General Abdulsalamu Abubakar, has dominated Nigeria.

INTERNATIONAL

2 West African Officials Try Sierra Leone Mission

Agence France-Presse

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — Several West African diplomatic initiatives aimed at ending the fighting in this capital, where rebels moved in four days earlier, began Sunday.

The Togolese and Ivorian foreign ministers left Ivory Coast late Sunday morning, heading for Freetown via Conakry, according to diplomats in Abidjan. The ministers, Joseph Koffi and Amara Essy, plan to meet President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah after talks with the detained leader of the rebels, Foday Sankoh, in an effort to resolve the crisis.

They also hope to meet the rebel commander Sam Bockarie, who rejected a cease-fire announcement by Mr. Kabbah, and insists on meeting Mr. Sankoh on neutral territory before considering a truce.

On Saturday night, a Boeing 747 landed at Freetown's international airport, bringing in hundreds of soldiers to reinforce Ecomog, the Nigerian-led regional intervention force that is battling rebels of the Revolutionary United Front and soldiers of a Sierra Leone junta that was ousted in February.

Several dozen Ghanaian soldiers also arrived Saturday at Lungi airport, which is one of the rebel targets, according to Mr. Bockarie.

Fighting continued Saturday in the capital, separated from Lungi by a wide estuary.

Around 60 wounded Ecomog troops were brought from central Freetown to Lungi on Saturday, some on stretchers, others carried by their colleagues, journalists at the airport reported.

On Sunday morning, there was no sound of gunfire in the western part of Freetown, nor of the Ecomog jets that had flown over the city in recent days.

It remained unclear who controlled the center of the capital, where residents were staying indoors, deprived of electricity and water and faced with dwindling stocks of food.

Many buildings had been burned.

2 Reporters Shot in Freetown

Two journalists for The Associated Press were shot Sunday while covering the civil war in Sierra Leone, the AP reported from Freetown.

The two were among a group of journalists and officials of the Information Ministry who were traveling in four cars through central Freetown. They were being escorted by Ecomog troops.

Medical confirmation of the reporters' condition was not immediately available.

The journalists' names were being withheld by the AP until family members could be informed.

BRIEFLY

Cuban Denounces Embargo 'Easing'

HAVANA — A Cuban legislative leader has denounced President Bill Clinton's proposal to ease the U.S. embargo, calling it a "deceptive maneuver" intended to deflect growing opposition around the world to the 37-year-old embargo on Cuba.

In a two-hour speech broadcast on television, Ricardo Alarcon said other changes the United States had promised in March, such as allowing sales of medicine, never had been carried out.

The U.S. proposal announced last week included expanding direct flights, allowing more Americans to send cash to Cuba, direct mail service and sales of food and agricultural supplies. (NYT)

Violence Shadows Colombia Talks

SAN VICENTE DEL CA- GUAN, Colombia — The death toll from renewed violence continued to mount in Colombia over the weekend as government negotiators and Marxist rebels agreed to meet for a second round of peace talks Monday.

On Saturday, two policemen died in a clash with Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrillas, and 20 civilians were reported massacred by rightist paramilitary groups. (AFP)

For the Record

The president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, looked poised to win re-election Sunday. But opposition leaders called the vote irrelevant because of Mr. Nazarbayev's campaign tactics, including intimidating voters. (AP)

At least 16 people were killed in two days of violence linked to armed Islamic groups in Algeria. Since the beginning of Ramadan on Dec. 19, more than 100 people have been killed. (AFP)

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

AROUND the world, the number of bridge players has been growing steadily, but in North America the number is slipping. In the last two years the membership of the American Contract Bridge League has dropped by slightly more than 1 percent and is now slightly more than 166,000.

The recent Fall Nationals in Orlando, Florida, saw a larger drop: The attendance of 12,035 tables was down 20 percent from the same tournament six years ago.

The best defensive play reported during the tournament is perhaps the diagrammed deal played during the Open

Board-a-Match Teams. Almost all South players reached one no-trump, usually by the auction shown, and the opening lead was a heart. The heart queen won the first trick and declared led the club jack, for a finesse that lost to the queen.

The defense persevered with hearts; and after holding up the ace for one round, South led to the club king. East could not hold up, so the contract was made, almost always with an overtrick.

But at one table the play varied in a spectacular fashion. When Brian Gunnell of Jacksonville, Florida, held the East cards, he won the first club trick with the ace, not the queen. South naturally concluded that the club queen

was on his left, and took another club finesse after winning the third round of hearts. Now South was cut off from the club winners in his hand.

East returned the spade jack, covered with the queen, king and ace. South cashed dummy's club king and led the spade nine. There were two possibilities now. East could duck, scoring two spade tricks when the suit was led again from dummy but having to lead diamonds in the ending.

Or South could win and return a spade, forcing dummy to lead a diamond.

The best South could do was to lead a low diamond, and take two diamond tricks at the finish.

Either way, South was held

to seven tricks, which was crucial playing board-a-match. Gunnell's coup won the board for his team.

NORTH			
♠ A 8 8			
♥ 9 8 7			
♦ A Q 9 2			
♣ K 7 4			
WEST			
♠ K 7 6			
♥ K 10 3 2			
♦ K J 8			
♣ 6 5 3			
EAST			
♠ J 10 3 2			
♥ J 6 4			
♦ 7 5 4 3			
♣ A Q			
SOUTH (D)			
♠ Q 8 4			
♥ A Q 5			
♦ 10 6			
♣ J 10 8 8 2			

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:

	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the heart two.

Europe to be decided

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INTERNATIONAL

Iraq Backs Off Voting On Challenge to West

Parliament Was Set to Reject UN Resolutions

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

CAIRO — After more than a month of defiance, the Iraqi government inexplicably postponed a vote Sunday in which its Parliament had appeared ready to take further steps along a collision course with its Western foes.

Instead, Parliament issued only a mild statement critical of last month's American-led air strikes against Iraq, which had prompted calls within the legislature for measures that would have been a direct challenge to the United Nations.

No reason was given for the postponement, which came at the end of an extraordinary two-day meeting of the legislative body.

The Parliament is an instrument of the government of President Saddam Hussein, and it appeared that Baghdad had decided to skirt a further confrontation. Only hours before Sunday's vote, the majority of the 250-member Parliament had appeared ready to formally reject several of the UN resolutions that were imposed against Iraq at the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

Instead, Parliament adopted a resolution calling only for reparations to be paid for damages from last month's air strikes. Still, members of Parliament said consideration of tougher measures, including the possible repudiation of Iraq's border with Kuwait, could resume by the end of the month.

Until Sunday, the Iraqi reaction to the air strikes had followed an increasingly confrontational path. In the weeks since the attacks ended Dec. 19, the Iraqi government has challenged American warplanes and called on other Arabs in the region to rise up against governments aligned with the United States.

That has prompted renewed warnings

from the West, including a statement this past weekend by Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain that warned of further military action if Iraq appeared once again to be threatening its neighbors.

Statements by members of the Iraqi Parliament had suggested a readiness to push matters even further, by reversing a 1994 vote in which Iraq recognized neighboring Kuwait within its current borders. It was Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 that triggered its the Gulf War and the continuing confrontation with the West.

But the resolution that the Parliament adopted Sunday made no mention of that and other confrontational proposals. It called only for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which have served as bases for Western military operations against Iraq, to pay reparations for the damages caused by the four-day attack.

The Parliament did reinforce the government's rejection of Western-imposed no-flight zones over the country. It said Iraq should continue its military opposition to the American and British aircraft that have been patrolling the zones over southern and northern Iraq.

By setting aside a more confrontational message, Iraq may have been trying to limit hostility from the Arab world. Since the air strikes ended, Iraqi frustration over a lack of Arab backing has been mounting, but it has been met mostly with disdain from governments like Egypt's.

More than at any time since the 1991 war, Arab governments are expressing outright hostility to the government of Mr. Saddam. But the Arab governments remain opposed to the air strikes.

Reports in several Saudi-owned newspapers Sunday said that the Riyadh government, the base for Western military operations against Iraq in 1991, was ready to press for an end to economic sanctions against Iraq as long as military pressure against Baghdad continues.

■ 2 Arab States Accuse Saddam

Saudi Arabia's official news agency on Sunday urged Iraqis to oust Mr. Saddam, a call echoed by the Egyptian foreign minister. The Associated Press reported from Jidda.

The Saudi Press Agency accused Mr. Saddam of killing and torturing thousands of Iraqis. Calling him the "Baghdad tyrant," the commentary said it is the Iraqi people who "need a revolution" to topple him.

In similar comments to be published Monday in a Berlin newspaper, Foreign Minister Amr Moussa of Egypt said Mr. Saddam was "shaming the entire Arab region through his politics." The Berliner Kurier quoted Mr. Moussa as saying that Mr. Saddam has caused "unceasing suffering to his people."

"Iraq is a rich country that has become poor under Saddam Hussein's regime," Mr. Moussa was quoted as saying. "We are of the opinion that he is no longer capable of being responsible for his country's politics."

He added, "Iraq needs a new government."



A Yugoslav Army convoy heading Sunday toward a village near Podujevo, in northern Kosovo.

KOSOVO: Rebels Won't Free Soldiers Without Prisoner Exchange

Continued from Page 1

slav troops and armaments were deployed Saturday. There was still no clear picture of casualties from the previous day's shelling.

The new OSCE chairman, Foreign Minister Knut Vollebæk of Norway, arrived in Belgrade for talks with top Yugoslav officials, including President

Slobodan Milosevic, and he was due to visit Kosovo on Tuesday.

And Chris Hill, the U.S. mediator for Kosovo, was in Pristina to continue seeking a solution to bolster the October truce, which has been severely strained by the latest bout of violence. So far, his attempts have brought no tangible result.

Despite the growing tensions and vi-

olence, many Kosovo watchers said the situation was unlikely to return to an all-out war, at least for the time being.

During the crackdown last year by Yugoslav forces against separatist guerrillas, as many as 2,000 people were killed and 250,000 were made refugees. Ninety percent of the population of Kosovo are ethnic Albanians.

(AFP, Reuters)

BOSNIA: Serb War-Crimes Suspect Is Killed by NATO Soldiers

Continued from Page 1

The tribunal's chief prosecutor, Louise Arbour, expressed regret at the outcome of the arrest attempt, and called upon the remaining 30 indictees still at large to surrender "to avoid undue exposure to risk for the accused" and for the NATO-led troops who trying to arrest them. The tribunal has indicted 57 people, and 26 suspects have given themselves up or been apprehended.

The last casualty during an arrest operation was in July 1997 when another former police chief, Simo Drljaca, was shot and killed when he fired on British soldiers trying to arrest him near the northwestern town of Prijedor.

Mr. Gagovic was at the top of the list of eight indictees grouped under Foca, the town's name. As its police chief he began in April 1992, Mr. Gagovic oversaw the detention of local Muslim women, children and elderly men held in a sports hall. That facility, according to the indictment, was the scene of "inhuman treatment, unhygienic facilities, overcrowding, starvation and psychological torture, including sexual assaults."

Mr. Gagovic's men regularly beat, raped and gang-raped the female detainees, prosecutors charge, and they contend that Mr. Gagovic, quartered nearby, had good reason to know what was going on. "On or around 17 July, 1992, Dragan Gagovic personally raped one of the women who, on the previous

day, had complained about the incidences of sexual assaults," part of the 1996 indictment reads.

Last year, Milorad Kvojevic, who also was indicted on rape charges, surrendered to NATO troops and is in custody in The Hague. The town of Foca was described by Human Rights Watch in a report last summer as a haven for six men indicted by the UN criminal tribunal prosecuting atrocities in the former Yugoslavia's 1992-1995 war. Among the six, according to a Bosnian daily newspaper, was the most wanted man on the tribunal's list, Radovan Karadzic, the wartime political leader of the Bosnian Serbs.

Officials said they had no information on whether the arrest attempt Saturday was connected in any way with the apprehension of Mr. Karadzic. The potential for shootouts during arrests is often cited by NATO and other defense officials to explain why key fugitives are still at large, even though their whereabouts and movements are often well known to Western military personnel.

Defense Minister Alain Richard of France was in Bosnia nine days ago, reaffirming Paris's determination that Mr. Karadzic and the other accused Serbs, Muslims and Croats be brought to justice in The Hague. The latest arrest operation could have been launched in part to answer persistent questions about France's commitment to the war crimes tribunal.

France has long-standing ties to the



Dragan Gagovic as he appeared on a NATO list of war-crimes suspects.

Serbs, dating to the two world wars, and Serbs constitute the largest group on the list of tribunal indictees and the smallest proportion of those in custody. A year ago, Mr. Richard expressed contempt for what he called "show trials" in the Hague by refusing to allow French officers to testify.

Conservatives Split in France Over a Victory

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — Leaders of the French conservative political parties that lost the last national elections in 1997 were at each other's throats again this weekend, this time over a victory.

After three days of political knife-fighting, back-stabbing, and maneuvering amid furious charges of betrayal, a centrist conservative was finally elected head of the Rhone-Alpes regional parliament in Lyon on Saturday, but only with support from Socialist members.

Anne-Marie Comparini, a member of Mayor Raymond Barre's Union for French Democracy and one of his deputies, won after a 37-hour marathon of bartering that even Mr. Barre had described as "a disgusting spectacle."

The biggest loser was former Defense Minister Charles Millon, who had been head of the regional parliament since 1988. But when he accepted support from the extreme-right National Front last spring to hang onto that post, the Union for French Democracy threw him out of the party.

Pact-making with the National Front had been anathema to moderate rightists until last year, when the Socialists and other leftist parties whittled down the conservative vote in elections for regional assemblies.

These legislatures control millions in local spending on schools and public works, and many national leaders also sit in them.

The setback in the regions last March, less than a year after the defeat of a conservative government in Paris by the leftist coalition that put Prime Minister Lionel Jospin in power, threw the right into turmoil.

Three other mainstream conservative regional assembly leaders accepted support, as Mr. Millon did, from the National Front, which President Jacques Chirac denounced as racist and xenophobic for policies that call for expulsion of illegal immigrants.

Conservative leaders in Paris purged the apostates and formed a new umbrella campaign organization last spring called the Alliance.

It was a pretty shaky alliance. Its leader, Philippe Seguin, was furious at the deal with the left that brought Mrs. Comparini to power in Lyon this weekend. Mr. Seguin's party, the Rally for the Republic movement founded by Mr. Chirac, said, "Political confusion by nature weakens democracy and only serves the interests of extremists and their allies."

"I hope the Alliance has not broken up — let's say it's in seriously bad shape," a spokesman for Mr. Seguin, Francois Fillon, said in an interview with the conservative Journal du Dimanche. But his party and its leaders, he said, expected their partners to explain why they had accepted leftist support to win.

Francois Bayrou, head of the Union of French Democracy, congratulated Mrs. Comparini on her victory and said that while left and right would mostly keep going their separate ways, the vote had shown that they could meet to defend essential French republican values against extremism if necessary.

Mr. Millon, who has started a party of his own called The Right, demanded new regional elections and said that he was sure the right, whatever that might now be, could win them. "The Alliance has blown up in mid-air," he told French radio.



BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY — A young boy taking in the neon signs outside a shopping center in Beijing on Sunday. Inside is a movie studio with three Hollywood sets.

BEAUTY: Aspiring to 'Big Nose' Look in West, Chinese Submit to Surgeons' Knives

Continued from Page 1

find a wife," said Wen Biao, 26, a computer programmer with puppy-dog eyes from southern China who spent three days on a train to come to the Plastic Surgery Hospital attached to the Chinese Academy of Medical Science. "I already have a good job."

"My family thinks it's a great idea," he added, pointing out that his mother did not begin to wear makeup until the 1980s, when she was past 50, because of worries that she would be criticized as bourgeois. "They're all interested in bigger noses."

Dr. Zhou said his patients generally ask him to make them look more Western. Indeed, his main business involves slicing eyelids in half to make the eyes seem deeper-set. The operation creates a double-eyelid effect, and Dr. Zhou thinks it is very attractive. "It looks foreign," he said, "and that means it's exotic."

Next in line are nose jobs — again, Dr. Zhou said, his patients think their noses are too small, too flat, "not bold enough, not Western."

This is curious because a typical, semi-Chinese use to tease foreigners is *da bi* or "big nose."

"Well, we don't want our noses big like yours," a nurse working with Dr. Zhou scoffed at a Western

visitor. "We just want them a little higher, a little more expressive."

At the Plastic Surgery Hospital, a nose job costs \$300 — a month's earnings for a middle-class urban resident.

Dr. Zhou offers a book full of before-and-after photographs showcasing his handiwork. A part-time poet, the avuncular doctor has illustrated the photographs with euphoric descriptions: "Peasant brother becomes film star" accompanies one man's mug shots after a small, flat nose was given a bridge and elongated noticeably. "Ugly duckling into a white swan" goes with a woman in her early 30s whose post-operation shot shows her decked out like a temptress in the Arabian Nights.

"Ooo-ooo," Dr. Zhou murmurs (Chinese for "hubba-hubba").

Most of Dr. Zhou's patients initially were actors and actresses. Indeed, according to Song Yeguang, president of the Chinese Plastic Surgery Society, before 1978 actors and actresses were the only ones who were allowed to have plastic surgery, and then only after a long permission process. Since 1978, however, plastic surgery has been open to the masses.

Exchanges with U.S. doctors began in 1982, and Chinese surgeons began to retrain themselves in the surgery's techniques.

"In the beginning we didn't even know how to do pierced ears for earrings," Dr. Song said. Now private plastic surgery hospitals are sprouting up in richer Chinese cities. Hainan Island in southern China boasts one called the Dreaming Girls Fantasy, a 12,000-square-foot (1,080-square-meter) establishment staffed with doctors "trained in plastic arts from Brazil," on advertisement said.

After eyelids and noses in popularity come breast implants, although Dr. Song said interest has been tapering off because of concerns about the safety of silicone.

That, in turn, has spawned a market of breast goods.

The pages of Chinese women's magazines sprinkled with advertisements for products designed to enhance breast size. One product, sold by a company that used to make handbags in western city of Xian, promises bigger breasts jolting the chest with a powerful shock. Another item hawked by the factory guarantees such through suction cups.

Back home a few weeks later, Miss Lang said she was happy with her new nose. It was worth the month's salary, she said. "No, I don't have boyfriend, yet," she said in a phone interview. "I feel more optimistic now. It's a new beginning."

EMBASSIES: Security Pleas From U.S. Ambassador in Kenya Went Unheeded at the State Department

Continued from Page 1

threat was unfounded, but some officials believe the inquiry was botched, and the agency's inspector-general is investigating how it was handled.

State Department officials brushed aside General Anthony Zinni, commander of the U.S. Central Command, who had visited Nairobi on his own and warned that the embassy there was an easy and tempting target for terrorists. General Zinni's offer to send his own specialists to review security in Nairobi was turned down by the State Department.

The State Department had all but abandoned the commitment it made after the 1983 bombing of the Beirut embassy to improve embassy security. Department officials had long since stopped asking Congress for the money needed to meet its own standards, and had adopted a strategy of improving the handful of embassies it believed were at greatest risk. Nairobi was not one of them.

Ms. Bushnell, in a rare interview about the bombing, said by phone from Nairobi on Friday: "This is a tragedy in the real sense of the word, and it's a tragedy that has caused us to think differently. We no longer operate under the assumptions that

we did in the past." A report made public Friday by a commission appointed by Mrs. Albright excoriated the State Department for failing to safeguard American missions against terrorist attacks, particularly for the practice of giving vulnerable missions like the one in Nairobi lower priority when experience shows they make tempting targets for terrorists.

But the report, signed by Admiral William Crowe, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, concluded that "intelligence provided no immediate tactical warning of the Aug. 7 attacks."

Still, classified cable traffic and intelligence reports, which were not included in the public version of Admiral Crowe's report, show that while none of the warnings gathered by U.S. intelligence in the year before the bombings pointed to a particular act of terrorism on a particular day, the United States had growing evidence that the embassy was a target of terrorist plots, and that terrorists hostile to American interests were active in Kenya.

State Department officials insist that they were sympathetic to Ms. Bushnell's concerns. They added that it was impossible to respond to each terrorist threat it received. Department officials

also assert that even if Ms. Bushnell's requests had been granted, a new embassy could not have been in place in time to prevent the attack in August.

They also said they were told at the time by the CIA that the threats in Nairobi had either proved unfounded or had been dealt with by Kenyan authorities.

Administration officials said Ms. Bushnell began raising concerns about the embassy's security soon after her arrival in Nairobi in 1996.

She sent two cables to headquarters in December 1997, outlining the dangers and asking for a new embassy. Her request was not seriously considered, officials said, when senior State Department officials met in January 1998 to set a budget for embassy construction in the coming year.

"It didn't come up on the radar screen," said a senior administration official.

This prompted Ms. Bushnell to go directly to Mrs. Albright. In memos sent in April and May, she asked Mrs. Albright to cite Nairobi's vulnerability to Congress in seeking more funds for security. In addition, Ms. Bushnell was lobbying every senior American official and member of Congress who came to Nairobi.

While none of the terrorist threats investigated by the CIA panned out, they focused Ms. Bushnell's attention on just how vulnerable her embassy was.

By the mid-1990s, the global investigation touched off by the 1993 World Trade Center bombing had focused on Mr. bin Laden and his associates. FBI agents from New York were hard at work building a criminal case against the Saudi exile. At the same time, the CIA was tracking the group's movements and finances in hopes of preventing attacks.

One trail led to Kenya where the agency discovered that Mr. bin Laden's operatives were living in the country. Intelligence officials say they briefed Ms. Bushnell about the presence of the group in early 1997 but told her there was no evidence of a specific threat against the embassy or American interests in Kenya.

In the summer of 1997, American intelligence officials began to look more closely at what Mr. bin Laden was doing in Africa. The CIA identified an intriguing suspect: Wadiah Hage, a Lebanese-born American citizen in Kenya who was believed to have close ties to the leadership of Mr. bin Laden's group. American officials prodded their

Kenyan counterparts to raid Mr. Hage's home in Nairobi, an overture that was shared with Ms. Bushnell and others in the embassy.

Kenyan police, accompanied by the CIA and FBI, searched the house in August 1997. They found his computer, downloaded its files, and read a letter describing the existence of an "East African cell" of Mr. bin Laden's group.

The author of the letter mentioned recent attempts by American intelligence to investigate the group's Kenyan operations and alluded to its role in attacking American soldiers in Somalia a few years earlier. According to the document, the group had moved incriminating files from Mr. Hage's house and hidden them elsewhere.

That reference set off alarm bells.

American officials suspected that the missing files might contain evidence of a coming attack by Mr. bin Laden's Kenyan operatives.

The working theory, officials said, was that such a plot would be aimed at another country, with Nairobi used as a "jumping-off point."

A law enforcement official said American investigators began a "somewhat frantic, concerted effort" to locate the missing files.

EUROPE

As Scandals Rise, Blair Urges Focus on Policy

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Seeking to end a string of resignations and infighting that has marked his government's worst weeks in office, Prime Minister Tony Blair dismissed talk of cabinet rifts Sunday and vowed to keep his sights focused on the "big picture" of stable economic growth, education and welfare reform and constitutional change.

But Mr. Blair's attempt to emphasize policies rather than personalities was undermined by a damaging portrayal of Foreign Secretary Robin Cook as a hard-drinking womanizer in a book by his former wife and allegations of a potential conflict of interest involving Gordon Brown, the chancellor of the Exchequer.

The latest disclosures coincided with the first significant signs of erosion in the popularity of Mr. Blair's government. A poll made public last week showed that the Labour Party's approval rating had fallen be-

low 50 percent for the first time since the general election in May 1997.

The difficulties amount to a serious political headache for the prime minister as he begins a particularly difficult year. An economic slowdown threatens to derail the government's plans to raise spending on education and health care, the successful inauguration of the euro has put Mr. Blair on the defensive over his wait-and-see attitude toward joining monetary union, and Labour faces the prospect of significant losses in a series of elections this spring.

Under the headline "Rotten Robin," The Sunday Times published extracts from a new book by Margaret Cook in which she said that the foreign secretary had a string of affairs during their 28-year marriage, drank heavily and felt he had "sold his soul to the devil" by abandoning his left-wing principles to support Mr. Blair.

It was a particularly bitter attack from a woman who was dumped by her husband, while the two were preparing to leave Heathrow Airport on

vacation in August 1997, after Mr. Blair's press secretary warned Mr. Cook that the press was about to disclose his affair with his secretary, whom he later married.

The opposition Conservative Party called Sunday for Mr. Cook to resign or be fired, saying that the allegations came on top of a "disastrous" record, including diplomatic incidents with India and Israel and a scandal over the sale of British arms to Sierra Leone. But Mr. Blair insisted he had "every confidence in Robin Cook, who is doing a superb job." In a BBC television interview Sunday, he also appealed for the media and the public to focus on issues.

"Judge us on the things that are important," he said. "We can either go through the personal lives of all cabinet ministers and pick them apart, or we can decide that the government should be judged on the policies it has made."

The problem for Mr. Blair is that either way, the government faces a difficult challenge.

On a personal level, the prime minister's standing remains shaken by the resignation Dec. 23 of Peter Mandelson, his closest adviser and the trade secretary, for failing to disclose a loan from a cabinet colleague whose finances were under investigation by Mr. Mandelson's department.

The disclosure forced the resignations of the colleague, Geoffrey Robinson, the paymaster general, and of Charlie Whelan, the spokesman for Mr. Brown and the man who was said to have leaked details of the loan. It also revived speculation about rivalry between Mr. Blair and Mr. Brown stemming from the 1994 contest for the leadership of the Labour Party.

Fresh allegations related to Mr. Brown appeared destined to keep the intrigue alive. The Conservatives demanded a fresh inquiry into Mr. Robinson's influence after a newspaper reported that a magazine he owned, New Statesman, had paid more than £100,000 (\$164,000) to a public relations firm run by Mr. Brown's girlfriend, Sarah Macanlay.



Robin Cook with his wife, Gaynor Regan, formerly his secretary. A new book by Mr. Cook's former wife, Margaret, attacks him.

BRIEFLY

Chechnya to Adopt Islamic Framework

MOSCOW — The breakaway Republic of Chechnya intends to adopt a new, Islamic constitution, a Russian news agency reported Sunday.

Appearing on Chechen state television Saturday, President Aslan Maskhadov mapped out his plans to adopt a new constitution based on the Koran, the Muslim holy book. Already, Chechnya considers itself to be an Islamic republic and relies on Islamic law.

Mr. Maskhadov said the changes would take place within three years, after which the government would hold presidential and parliamentary elections. (AP)

Bulgarian Party Attacks Reforms

SOFIA — Two years after the start of riots that ultimately knocked them from power, leaders of the ex-Communist Socialist Party denounced Bulgaria's reforms Sunday and urged the pro-Western government's ouster.

The Socialist leader, Georgi Parvanov, appealed for backing from 7,000 mainly elderly supporters at a rally in Sofia's central Aleksandar Nevski Square.

But with Prime Minister Ivan Kostov enjoying a strong majority in Parliament, the comments were seen more as a public appeal linked to this year's local elections. (AP)

Santer Says Kohl Could Be Successor

BERLIN — Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, named former Chancellor Helmut Kohl as his possible successor during a weekend radio interview.

Mr. Santer, whose term ends Jan. 6, 2000, told Inforadio Berlin Brandenburg that Mr. Kohl's long history as a statesman had earned him such a position. "He would be ideal," Mr. Santer, of Luxembourg, said Saturday.

Mr. Kohl lost elections in September after 16 years as German chancellor. During his period in office, he oversaw the reunification of East Germany with the West and was a main force behind the Jan. 1 launch of the euro. (AP)

Poland Drafts Camps Law

JERUSALEM — President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland met with Israeli leaders Sunday and promised quick action to "protect" the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration-camp site, where Roman Catholics have erected crosses and a church, infuriating Jews.

During a visit to Yad Vashem museum and a memorial to the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, Mr. Kwasniewski said he would show Israeli leaders draft legislation protecting the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex and similar sites of "martyrdom and remembrance."

"I expect this problem will be discussed and decided on by the Polish Parliament, which will discuss a special law — how to protect such places — in the next months," he said.

Mr. Kwasniewski did not provide details of the draft law, but last month Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek of Poland promised that dozens of crosses planted outside Auschwitz would be removed. However, the prime minister said that a large crucifix the Pope used at a 1979 open-air Mass at Auschwitz, around which the other crosses have been placed, would remain.

European Commission Faces Censure Vote on Graft

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — Fresh from its success in masterminding the inauguration of a single currency for 11 nations, the European Union's executive body, the European Commission, faces a motion of censure by the European Parliament this week over allegations of graft and mismanagement.

If the vote goes against them, the 20 commissioners would be required to step down or accept a caretaker status.

That possibility is remote, officials of the Commission and the Parliament said, but nevertheless an unexpected head of steam has built up over the allegations, which have been simmering for months.

The president of the Commission, Jacques Santer, last week acknowledged cases of mismanagement, but he defended both himself and fellow commissioners against suggestions of dishonesty.

"We have had difficulties with our management," he said. "We are trying to overcome them. But to call into question in a global and indiscriminate way the whole workings of the Commission, that's just intolerable."

Seven commissioners, including Mr. Santer, face unsubstantiated allegations in Parliament that they abetted or covered up the misuse of funds. Internal investigations have uncovered no in-

cidents of fraud involving commissioners, although several cases involving lower-level officials have been placed in the hands of the Belgian and Luxembourg judicial authorities. Those cases mostly refer to actions carried out during the previous commission, which was headed by Jacques Delors.

Mr. Santer and Erkki Liikanen, the Finnish commissioner in charge of the budget and administration, both rejected charges they had diverted EU contracts to their wives.

The motion is a blunderbuss to make critics either put up or shut up.

Last year the European Court of Auditors criticized the Commission's handling of the 85 billion euro (\$99 billion) EU budget. In December the Parliament refused to accept the EU's 1996 accounts, setting in motion the current crisis. The Commission then suspended at half-pay a 41-year auditor, Paul van Buitenen, after he took accusations of fraud to the parliamentary Green Party, with which he is affiliated.

Mr. van Buitenen has acquired the aura of a heroic whistle-blower in some circles. However, Mr. Santer said that not only was there nothing new in his allegations but they also had compromised cases that are before the courts. Mr. Santer said he was justified in suspending Mr. van Buitenen because he had

gone outside the proper channels.

Paradoxically, the censure motion, scheduled for a vote in Strasbourg on Thursday, has been brought by the leadership of the Socialist Group not in order to destroy the Commission but to save it. The group is the largest in the Parliament, with 214 of the 630 seats.

The Parliament's procedures do not allow the possibility of a confidence vote. The Socialist leadership is using the blunderbuss method of calling a censure motion as a substitute for a vote of confidence. In effect, the motion calls on critics in the Parliament — in-

cluding some German Socialists, plus a mix of Greens, Belgian and Dutch Liberals, Christian Democrats, British conservatives and far rightists — either to put up or shut up.

The Commission is a favorite whipping boy for EU skeptics, and the uproar has clearly given many members of Parliament an opportunity to raise their profile before elections to the assembly in June.

Anyone looking for a conspiracy theory would have no difficulty finding one here. Many in Europe would like to reduce the powers of the Commission, which is responsible for initiating, supervising and implementing com-

munity legislation. The 20 commissioners and their staff swear loyalty to the EU, pledging not to seek or take instructions from any national government. This goes against the inclinations of those who would like to turn the EU into an intergovernmental rather than a supranational organization.

The Commission is seen as the defender of the interests of small countries, which sometimes brings it into conflict with the aims of the big powers. This appears to be the case now with Germany, which is determined to achieve a big reduction of its net contribution to the EU budget, some 11 billion euros in 1998. Spain sees the Commission as an ally in its determination to defend the agricultural support it receives from the EU. The Commission will seek clarifications from German officials on Monday during a meeting in connection with Germany's six-month presidency of the EU.

To unsettle the Commission, the Parliament would require a quorum of three-quarters of its members, and two-thirds of those voting would have to be in favor of the motion. Such a majority is unlikely, but nevertheless a substantial vote against the Commission could weaken it at a critical time, when the EU is engaged in a fundamental debate about its financing and its enlargement to include up to 10 new members in eastern and central Europe plus Cyprus.

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Indonesia's Troubles

Since the dramatic fall from power last May of President Suharto of Indonesia, things have not been going smoothly for the world's fourth most populous nation. Just in the past few days, some of the worst violence of the year has raged in Aceh, a separatist-minded province of Sumatra 1,600 kilometers northwest of the capital of Jakarta. At least eight soldiers and 17 civilians have been killed, and many more injured, in riots and a subsequent crackdown. The violence is a sign of the deep trouble Indonesia still faces, even as other Asian nations begin to see glimmers of possible recovery.

Elections have been scheduled for June, and Indonesians across the spectrum agree they should take place after more than three decades of authoritarian rule. But no one should be lulled into believing that elections alone can solve Indonesia's troubles, even if the vote is free and fair — a big if. Mr. Suharto's rule inflicted too much damage on civil and political institutions to expect instant recovery.

The damage is evident now in the gruesome violence taking place: Muslim against Christian, Javanese against Chinese, ethnic groups against each other. Neither the armed forces nor the police command enough respect to effectively defend law and order. Separatist movements gain in several regions and islands. Economic conditions remain dismal, with more and more children forced to drop out of school.

To all of this, the transitional government of President B. J. Habibie has offered few answers. Evidence that Mr. Habibie is mostly interested in preserving Mr. Suharto's authoritarian structures without Mr. Suharto has engendered suspicion in many quarters. Indonesians are much freer to express themselves and form political parties now than a year ago. But the Habibie government has shown far too little commitment to uncovering and punishing corruption and military abuses. Without such an effort, peace will be impossible.

The ability of the United States or any other outsider to help Indonesia in its time of trouble is limited. Budget-cutting forced the State Department in 1996 to close its only consulate on the northern island of Sumatra. Still, the United States can provide humanitarian aid, help for newborn civic organizations and technical assistance for the coming election. And it can do more to make clear it considers Indonesia's efforts to democratize vitally important, as in fact they are.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Insecure U.S. Embassies

The bombs that killed 258 people at the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last August also destroyed any lingering illusions about the protection that America offers its diplomats and their employees overseas. The dismal state of security was deplored again Friday by two State Department commissions that investigated the August attacks.

They found that Washington has neglected embassy security for decades. The administration and Congress should carry out many of the report's recommendations.

The investigations were supervised by William Crowe, who has served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as ambassador to Britain. His two groups issued a joint report, which concluded that while security measures at both embassies followed State Department policy, that policy was deficient. Although guidelines required most buildings to have perimeter defenses 100 feet (30 meters) away, the two embassies were exempt, as were other older buildings. The report criticizes the government for complacency about security in the absence of specific terrorist threats.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The Senate Way

The unanimous vote by which the Senate adopted a procedural outline for the president's impeachment trial was a heartening development. Finally, the politics and the merits of the issue may be coinciding in a way that will produce a credible result.

Senate Republicans are under pressure from conservative groups to make the trial as punishing and weakening for the president as they can. If they lack the votes to remove him from office, perhaps they can shame him into resignation. The national opinion polls that show the general public opposed to his removal by margins of roughly 2 to 1 don't matter to them.

But the polls do matter to the senators, who have to forage for votes among the public at large, and to the Republican leadership, which is eager to retain its majority in the next election. The pressures on the senators are thus contradictory — more so than they may have been on many House members answerable to narrower constituencies. If the result, however, is to lead the senators themselves to adopt a mixed position — to treat and judge the president's conduct with the contempt it deserves without in the end removing him from office — then the balance will have been about right.

That seems to be what is happening to the Republicans. It's not such a bad thing. We continue to believe that censure is the best of the bad options Mr. Clinton has left the country. At some point in the process he should be led to acknowledge as he has not that massive lying such as his has a bearing on the fitness of an elected official to serve.

Most Democrats have already come

to censure, but from the opposite direction. They too are subject to contradictory pressures, with beneficial effect. As of now, at least, they appear prepared to protect the president if the Republicans seek to drive him from office, but not as reflexively as did too many in the House. They want to limit the proceedings, but in the end they, too, need a way to separate themselves from the rules that he himself is willing to apply to others but put them in a position of defending what most of them abhor.

As so often in the Senate, complicated matters such as these tend to be fought out in terms of procedure rather than substance. Democrats and some Republicans wanted to hear the House managers lay out the charges and the president's lawyers lay out the defense, then hold a test vote on whether the Senate was prepared to remove him from office even if all the charges could be shown to be true. If not, their plan was to cut short the trial as futile, and begin debating censure. The managers and other Republicans wanted a guarantee of a full trial, including the calling of witnesses.

What the Senate unanimously agreed to do was to decide neither of these things in advance. It will hear the opening statements; then motions will be in order to adjourn or otherwise limit the proceedings and to hear particular witnesses. Possibly there will be fights then, but the idea is to see how it goes. That's not bad. What we are spared, at least for now, is the partisanship on the part of both parties that cheapened the proceedings in the House.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

In Europe, Japan Seeks an Economic Counterweight

By William Pfaff

PARIS — There is a neglected political dimension to Japan's new effort to convince Americans and Europeans that a stable exchange system should be invented for the dollar, euro and yen. The German and French governments are sympathetic to the idea, but Americans are dismissive.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan currently is in Western Europe, officially to acquaint himself with the new leaders of Germany, France and Italy, but indirectly concerned with enlisting their support for a reform of today's floating currency rates.

This initiative is inspired by the double shock felt in Tokyo at the success of the new European single currency, the euro, which began trading Jan. 4. The Japanese had not anticipated the implications of Europe's introduction of a new currency, serving a group of 11 nations nearly as strong in aggregate GNP as the United States, and sounder in terms of reserves and trade deficit (it has none, compared with the more than trillion-dollar U.S. foreign deficit).

The Japanese had taken for granted that the dollar was irreplaceable as the currency of international exchange. For 50 years they had not considered the possibility that the international economy could be denominated in anything except dollars, or world trade — even their own trade — could be conducted in any other currency.

Their second shock was to realize that the yen was now in danger of being crowded off the international stage by the dollar-euro duo, with concomitant damage to Japan's international standing and world influence. The yen might even be challenged in what until now has been generally regarded as a "yen zone" in Asia — even though Japan alone produces two-thirds of Asia's entire GNP.

These shocks produced a sharp change in Japanese thinking. One result was Mr. Obuchi's trip to France, Germany and Italy. According to officials in the prime minister's entourage, his message to the Europeans has been the following: Japan wants to work with Europe; Japan is a reliable partner for Europe; Japan has already taken on four times as large a financial role in dealing with the Asian economic crisis as the United States; and Asia itself needs European-Japanese cooperation. The French and Germans have been reminded that their banks have a much bigger and more dangerous exposure in Asian markets than American banks.

The music accompanying the message is that unless the Europeans hang together with Japan, the United States will dominate them both. The Japanese remind Europeans that when Tokyo a year and a half ago proposed an Asian IMF to deal with the Asian crisis, it offered \$50 billion in short-term support while promising another \$50 billion in medium and long term investment, the idea was quashed by Washington, which would not accept competition to the Washington-dominated IMF.

They add that IMF remedies may have done more harm than good. Some Japanese also remark to Europeans that while "your friend across the Atlantic" opposes bringing developing countries into international deliberations on the world economy, Japan favors it, and also privileges the social dimension of the Asian crisis in its aid to Japan's neighbors; it is not merely bailing out its own investors.

This change is an important development that Washington and the Europeans would be unwise to ignore. The latter have until now paid relatively little attention to postwar Japan. (The Japanese have not forgotten President de Gaulle's condescending reference during the 1960s to Japan's prime minister as "a transistor salesman.")

Washington has for years lectured Tokyo about how to reform the Japanese economy, meanwhile taking for granted that Japan would supply a disproportionate share of international aid and support for American security initiatives, while patiently funding the U.S. deficit. The Japanese have assumed that they had to comply. Now they seem to be thinking again.

They politely say that theirs is not an anti-American message, even though

some might think otherwise. They say they merely want international equilibrium. They mention in passing that the United Nations Security Council no longer is representative of international realities, while assuring the Europeans, equally politely, that they are not questioning Europe's two permanent places on the Security Council, and its two vetoes (while Japan has neither).

The Japanese, in short, have been awakened from a long political apathy imposed by their conviction that they have had no alternative to the international role they play, demeaning as it sometimes has seemed — although in their present economic circumstances they are in a poor position to challenge anyone, least of all the United States.

(They tell their European interlocutors that Japan's economy will resume growth next year, and that they are "determined" to recover by 2001.)

What the European governments will make of this message from Tokyo cannot yet be known. Its appeal for an implicit alliance against the United States will certainly find some response, but also provides the Europeans with a troubling complication in an increasingly difficult transatlantic relationship. What seems most interesting is that Japan, docile for so long, should be making such an appeal, discreet as it is.

International Herald Tribune.
Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Whatever It Takes, Sweep Away the Clinton Mess

By Thomas I. Friedman

WASHINGTON — Say, I've been away for the past four months writing a book. Has anything happened while I was gone?

Seriously, though, I am resuming my column, and precisely because I have been gone I want to make up for lost time and drive right into things with a proposal: I am demanding the impeachment of George W. Bush, the governor of Texas.

I know, I know. He hasn't even been made the Republican nominee yet, let alone been elected president, but I want to get a head start on things. So let the record show, you read it here first: Impach George W. now.

Why not? Representative Bob Barr, that favorite speaker of white supremacists, and his colleagues have been calling for Bill Clinton's impeachment ever since they laid eyes on him. Well, I just laid eyes on George W., and I don't like his looks. I don't like his voice. I don't like his past carousing. And I don't like his suggestion that

only Christians get to go to Heaven.

I want him out, and I want him out before he even thinks of being in. I want him impeached at his inauguration. It will save time and money, since the House and Senate will already be on hand, and so will Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Imagine the drama on the Capitol steps when the chief justice asks George W. to raise his right hand, and he thinks it is to take the oath of office, but instead Justice Rehnquist says to him: "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

Well, you get the point. First Mr. Clinton demeaned the presidency with his reckless affair with an underwear-flashing intern, and now the House Republicans have matched him with a reckless bill of impeachment over something that does

is then offered up for impeachment by a Republican prosecutor after he can't find anything other than sexual fits to justify his three-year investigation into a 20-year-old land deal?

Justice? You tell me where you are going to find justice between a president who could not even make a proper apology to the American people for defiling the Oval Office and a Republican Party that stands for so little today that it has gone from the Contract With America to the Contract on Bill Clinton.

When a process so serious — impeachment — gets hijacked by people so venomous, justice can never be an outcome, it can only be a victim.

Mr. Clinton made the Republicans crazy, and it is easy to see why: He took all their good stuff — welfare reform, balanced budget and defense spending. I'd be crazy too.

(How appropriate that House Republicans chose the unknown Dennis Hastert to be their next speaker — the party with no

agenda led by the politician with no profile. A blank man for a blank slate. Perfect!)

The Clinton-Republican death struggle is the political equivalent of the Iran-Iraq war. You wish both sides could lose. It is like everything else between the White House and Republican today — a war over who wins.

And that is why what matters is not how it ends but how quickly it ends. Because the sooner they stop fighting over nothing and start dealing with something, like the nation's business, the better the chance that the people might still win.

Justice? Oh, I'm sorry, it's all sold out this season. Between Bill Clinton, Ken Starr and Bob Barr, I long ago gave up looking for justice. Now I pray only for damage control. When there is no one to root for, all you can root for is "The End." The only way you get justice with a crowd like this is not with the courts or with the constitution. It is with a broom.

The New York Times.

Looking Into the Future: Smart Shirts and Cloned Hearts

By Richard Reeves

NEW YORK — I have seen the future and it is personal. Or "personalized." Or, it will be a time of "inside-out solutions."

Those were the buzzwords this year at Renaissance Weekend, the gathering of hundreds of accomplished men and women from walks of life as separate as church and state. The most interesting of those walks and talks, as usual, were science, technology and medicine.

"Personalized" was the word favored by Oren Etzioni of the University of Washington, an authority on artificial intelligence. He talked about each of us having an "intelligent agent," that is, an almost invisible friend living, probably, in cellular phones — something like a cross between

a bottled genie and the little men who turn on the light when you open a refrigerator.

"You will be able to talk into the phone (or other device) and tell your car you're on your way," he said. "It will know where to go without more help from you. . . . Or you can say, 'I want to call Chicago' and the phone will get you the best deal on the call."

"Or, you can ask a pretzel bag, 'Are you fresh?'" said Bill Cheswick of Bell Labs. He was not kidding. Computer chips will be the size of big grains. "There are computers in hotel doorknobs right now. Next you'll be talking light bulbs and shirts."

Mr. Cheswick did not tell us what you would talk to the shirt

about, but they'll think of something.

The implications of all that are many and enormous, but Mr. Etzioni focused on shopping. "It will be the end of fixed prices and of branding," he said. That shook me because "branding" was one of last year's buzzwords. The idea was that with so many products out there, people would gravitate to names they trusted, from NBC to The New York Times, or from Sony to Nike.

No more, Mr. Etzioni said your intelligent agent, which would know everything about you including shoe size, foot shape and personal quirks would be a shopper with infinite time and patience, even as it worked almost instantaneously

everywhere in the world (or on the Web) to find you the perfect shoe at the best price; probably negotiable, in, say, Frankfurt. Sorry, Nike. Forget the swoosh, close the stores.

Driving that point home, so to speak, Ted Goodlander, president of Storage Computer, added this: "If I had a friend who owned a new car dealership, I'd tell him to sell it now. People will buy cars at GM Virtual Reality Centers."

At such centers, he said, a customer would design the car himself, getting the feel of more or less power, steering wheel size or turning radius, make personal choices and wait for "his" car to arrive a week later with his name embossed on the dashboard.

On future medicine, Ian Hunter, a microbiotics professor at MIT, talked about a most personal, inside-out health care system, your own "virtual body."

At birth, a "body" would be created from each person's genetic data and as life went on, basic medical examinations would be comparisons between the real you and the projected you of the virtual body. Any differences between the model and the real you would be the first indicator of medical problems.

On the subject of the personal, John Abele, the founder of Boston Scientific Corp., which makes what others dream about, said he had been looking at proposals to produce clones of Michael Jordan's heart — presumably the basketball star has a good one — and the plans were not a question of science anymore but were a business proposition. The question was: not whether it could be done but how much would it cost and how much could be charged consumers or their intelligent agents.

Finally, when it came to the real environment, Larry Gri-sham, a Princeton physicist, seemed almost amused by the daily debate on weather, saying, "In the short term anything can happen, but whatever does, 100 years from now it is going to be a lot hotter than it is now."

So, this is not pie or heart in the sky; this is where we are. Science is moving and changing so fast now that John-Cramer, a University of Washington physicist, who certainly spoke for me, said the only thing we can be certain of is that "everything we know is wrong."

Universal Press Syndicate.

It's Information That's Lacking

By Lovisa Stannow

LOS ANGELES — Compassion fatigue is an odd affliction. Rarely if ever mentioned by those who are supposed to suffer from it, it is a favorite buzzword of media representatives and political pundits. The American people, they tell us, would rather hear yet again the details of President Bill Clinton's behavior or learn about the adventures of Senator John Glenn, six cockroaches and a handful of tomatoes in outer space than be troubled by, let's say, a catastrophe in Africa.

I beg to differ. This past August, I worked in one of Doctors Without Borders' feeding centers in Ajep in southern Sudan. Faced in the morning with the tiny bodies of children who did not survive the previous night and the near-skeletons who were unlikely to last another day without help, it struck me that compassion fatigue is a human impossibility.

Closer to home, I get the same feeling. Over the past couple of months, the Los Angeles office of Doctors Without Borders has experienced a sudden outpouring of compassion and support for those starving in southern Sudan. This came after three local TV stations broke the virtual silence in the mainstream media and showed stories about the famine in Sudan.

Abdul from the Redlands University football team called to ask whether he and some friends from the team could raise money. Tiffany from Compton wondered if there was a minimum donation or whether people with limited means could in some way support the volunteer doctors and nurses fighting the famine. Max from Hawthorne noted the irony that we spend millions of dollars sending people to outer space while children are starving to death on Earth.

These experiences have convinced me that compassion fatigue is just a name for the lack of editorial responsibility in mainstream media

There is a lack of responsibility in mainstream media.

outlets. Americans do not suffer from a shortage of compassion, they suffer from a lack of information about pressing international issues. Through the coverage of the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal and the recent space adventures, journalists have demonstrated, if nothing else, that they are capable of in-depth reporting of continually changing stories. Why not a portion of that attention to the human tragedy in Sudan?

International coverage does not have to come at the expense of concern with domestic issues. There are good reasons to cover presidential behavior and space travel. But listening once again to debates about Mr. Clinton's sexual peccadilloes or watching Mr. Glenn rocket away from Earth for the second time is not what makes me proud to live in the United States. What makes me proud is the compassion expressed by Tiffany, Abdul, Max and so many other ordinary Americans.

The writer is West Coast director of Doctors Without Borders. She contributed this column to the Los Angeles Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Likely Clash

WASHINGTON, Tuesday. — Rather discouraging advices concerning the situation in the Philippines were discussed by the Cabinet. There is some talk of evidence of Aguinaldo being inspired by some other foreign Power, presumably Germany. The feeling is strong that a clash is likely. The President is very anxious to prevent it before the ratification of the peace treaty, which will be considered by the Senate tomorrow. It has not yet developed to what extent opponents of an expansion policy will endeavor to delay ratification, but it is believed that there will not be much delay.

1924: Real Progress

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial] The majority of the newly-elected women members of Parliament are de-

termined not to be annoyed during thrilling and emotional debates by that dreadful doubt: "I wonder if my hat is on straight?" And that is where they prove that the world is really progressing.

1949: Fatal Cure

LONDON, Jan. 10 — A writer in the British "Medical World" described a new drug for alcoholics as so potent "that the smell of a cork would prove almost fatal." The anonymous writer described recent experiments with the drug, which is called tetraethylthiuramdisulphide. "One victim had to run away from his fiancée and lie stretched upon his bed of discomfort after only one drink in a London restaurant," the writer said. "If the treatments were pushed further, it would seem likely that the smell of a cork would almost prove fatal."

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HEALTH/SCIENCE

TOMORROW
STYLEThe Hunt
For Otters
A Marine MysteryBy William K. Stevens
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Sea otters are appealing, no doubt about it. In recent decades they have cruised the cold waters off the Aleutian Islands and the Alaskan mainland in robust numbers, like crowds of carefree vacationers.

They float around luxuriously on their backs, all the while solicitously tending the babies that rest on the mothers' chests. They do barrel rolls and cartwheels. They dive down into the kelp beds that are their main feeding ground, where they gather up a gourmet feast of sea urchins, clams and mussels, tuck them under their arms, head for the surface and resume their backfloat.

They demonstrate their skill as tool users (the only mammals except primates that can do so) by putting rocks on their chests and cracking the clams and mussels on them. They roll the spiny urchins between their paws to make them go down better. Then they pop the succulent spine morsels into their mouths.

So it came as a shock to many people when James Estes, a marine ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, and his colleagues discovered that the otter population in the Aleutians had plunged sharply. Wild animal populations are always fluctuating to some degree or other, but Mr. Estes and his team at first could find no reason for the otters' unusually sharp decline.

Thus began a detective hunt that did not just uncover the cause of the decline: It opened a rare and revealing window on nature's complexity and interconnectedness — in this case, a huge slice of ecological reality encompassing both the broadest dimensions and most spectacular inhabitants of the marine environment as well as its most minute creatures and relationships.

Among other things, it turned out that orcas, or killer whales, had started eating the otters after decades and possibly centuries of peaceful coexistence. The new and lethal relationship between orcas and otters, the researchers concluded, was occasioned by ripples running from one end of this elegant web of existence to the other. And the otters, they found, were the crucial species holding the web together.

It is not often that ecologists are able to get a clear fix on such a big and complicated chunk of the natural world, or on the full sweep of the dynamics operating within it. Most ecological research projects are too short and too small to come to grips with such expansive dimensions. But Mr. Estes and his colleagues, who are based at the University of California at Santa Cruz, have been using the Aleutians and Western Alaska, a stretch of some 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers), as their research laboratory for nearly three decades.

They have tracked the otters' movements and population dynamics by tagging them and in some cases surgically implanting small radio transmitters. The researchers found that on some of the islands, otter populations had recovered strongly since they were nearly extinguished a century ago by a long-defunct fur trade. The Estes group had every reason to expect that they would continue to be robust. So when they began to notice in the 1990s that some populations were instead declining, he said, "it was unexpected and perplexing."

In fact, the researchers just did not believe it at first. "We wrote it off as sampling error, just the imprecision of the data," he said. But the numbers continued to drop, and it seemed clear that something unusual was going on.

Could the otters simply have migrated from one part of the region to another? To find out, the researchers analyzed populations over a 500-mile stretch of the Aleutians from Kiska to Segnam. Sure enough, by 1993 other numbers in that whole stretch had been cut by half. Here the geographical scope of the research effort became critical; a smaller region would not have been



Otters, researchers contend, are part of a crucial web of marine existence.

large enough to reveal the decline. In 1997, they repeated the surveys and found that the population decline had worsened, to about 90 percent. In the 500-mile stretch, other numbers had dropped to an estimated 6,000 from 53,000 in the 1970s.

"That told us for sure it was a very large-scale decline, but we were still trying to understand the cause," Mr. Estes said. Early on, the researchers ruled out reproductive failure. Their studies enabled them to keep track of how often otters gave birth and how many young survived, and this revealed that reproduction was continuing to resupply the population.

With other possible causes eliminated, the Estes team reasoned, mortality had to be the explanation. In the past, they had seen temporary declines in other populations because of starvation, pollution or infectious disease. "In all those cases," Mr. Estes said, "we find lots of bodies. They get weak and tired and come ashore to die." This time not a single dead otter was found — a clue, he said, that "something really weird was going on."

That told us for sure it was a very large-scale decline, but we were still trying to understand the cause.

As early as 1991, a member of the team had seen an orca eating an otter. Killer whales normally ignore otters as prey in favor of seals and sea lions, which give them more food for less expenditure of hunting energy. So at first, no one made the connection between a single otter's bad luck in meeting a killer whale and the shrinking otter population.

Soon the count of sightings reached nine, Mr. Estes said, and it became clear that "something was going on with whales in terms of their behavior toward otters."

THE rest of the detective story was described in a recent issue of the journal *Science* by Mr. Estes and other members of his team: M.T. Tinker, a graduate student at the university in Santa Cruz; Terrie Williams, a physiologist in the university's biology department, who is also Mr. Estes's wife; and Daniel Doak, a population biologist at the university.

Through statistical analysis, the researchers determined that the observed increase in attacks could not be attributed to chance alone. Then they placed other population trends in two paces on Adak Island where circumstances had by chance created experimental and control groups.

In one place, Clam Lagoon, the entrance from the sea was too narrow and shallow for orcas to enter. In the other, Kufuk Bay, they could enter easily. There was virtually no movement of

otters between the two areas. Almost two-thirds of the otters disappeared from the unsheltered bay in a year's time, while only 12 percent disappeared from the sheltered one. "That made us perk up our ears and think it really was the killer whales," Mr. Estes said.

But this conclusion only raised new questions. What made the whales attack the otters? The researchers have proposed the following chain of events, which begins in the open ocean.

First, populations of the northern Pacific's most nutritious fish, like ocean perch and herring, declined. The reasons are uncertain, but several have been proposed. One is overfishing by commercial fishermen. Another is a sudden warming of the North Pacific climate that began in the late 1970s. A third is competition from a predator species of fish, the pollock, which is not as nutritious as the other, oilier species.

The pollock population grew, according to one hypothesis, when whalers reduced the populations of whales that survive by filtering microscopic animals from the water. The tiny animals proliferated, and the pollock gorged on them.

The decline in the most nutritious forage fish, according to this story line, was mainly responsible for an ensuing crash in Alaskan populations of Steller sea lions and harbor seals, for which pollock did not provide sufficient nourishment. Numbers of these pinnipeds and seals and sea lions are called, have declined sharply since the 1970s. According to a 1996 study by the National Research Council, the decline in forage fish was probably a major factor in the pinniped crash.

Pinnipeds are the major food of orcas. Faced with a shortage, the Estes group believes, some killer whales turned to the next best thing: sea otters.

Here the ecological web gets even more complex. The otters are the keystone species of a coastal ecosystem called kelp forests. These are great stretches of algae, analogous to terrestrial woodlands, in which kelp fills the role of trees.

Otters maintain the ecosystem by eating sea urchins, which feed on kelp. When otters disappear, the urchin population explodes and quickly "deforests" the kelp ecosystem. That is exactly what happened in the Aleutians when killer whales removed so many otters from the scene. As the "trees" of the ecosystem disappeared, so did many other species of algae that are analogous to the underbrush of a terrestrial forest.

The researchers have documented the decline of otters, the proliferation of urchins and the deforestation of kelp beds. And based on earlier studies, the scientists believe that further ecological ripples are also under way. "Taking the other out of the system has a whole cascade of effects," Mr. Estes said.

"Most of them are unstudied, but we've looked at it enough to know there are a lot of them."

Patient or Guinea Pig?
Hepatitis Drug Trial Poses Painful DilemmaBy Denise Grady
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — When pharmaceutical companies recruit sick people for studies of experimental drugs, what are the companies' obligations to the patients? And once people sign up, accepting risk but hoping for benefit, receiving free medical care and drugs, what do they owe to science, to future patients who may be helped by the research and to the company that may profit from it?

Gail Ogden, 55, confronted those questions last year, when she learned that she had chronic hepatitis C, a viral disease of the liver. Although many people carry the virus for decades without becoming sick, others develop cirrhosis, liver failure or cancer. Because Ms. Ogden was ill and had signs of liver damage, her doctors recommended drug treatment. Treatment is expensive — a six-month course of therapy costs \$6,400 to \$8,600. Ms. Ogden's health insurance would cover only part of the cost and she could not afford to make up the difference. Her doctor encouraged her to volunteer for a study, in which she would receive medication at no cost.

In September, she entered a 48-week clinical trial at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, designed and sponsored by Schering-Plough Corp. Ms. Ogden was at first delighted to be accepted into the study, but like many people who consent to be experimented on, she has found the transition from patient to research subject a rough one, and she is now at odds with Schering-Plough.

Ms. Ogden's case and those of other people with hepatitis C have been taken up by patient advocacy groups, including AIDS who have had long experience in challenging drug companies over the way people are treated in clinical trials.

The experiment Ms. Ogden signed up for was to enroll 600 people at 40 to 50 medical centers around the United States. Some participants would be given Rebetron, a treatment approved for hepatitis C by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It combines two anti-viral drugs: injections of interferon and capsules containing ribavirin. Others would receive ribavirin with higher doses of interferon.

Though it was later approved for all patients, at the time the study began Rebetron had been approved only for people who had relapsed after treatment

with interferon alone. The purpose of the study was to test the effectiveness of Rebetron in people who had not taken any other medication for hepatitis C, and also to find out whether the version containing higher doses of interferon would work better than the standard form of Rebetron, which is effective in fewer than half of patients, in whom it reduces the virus to undetectably low levels.

Despite its limited effectiveness, Rebetron is the best treatment available for hepatitis C, and Schering-Plough is its sole manufacturer. First approved last June, the drug had earned \$46 million by the end of October. The study that Ms. Ogden entered was not "blinded," that is, both the subjects and the doctors monitoring them knew which doses they were receiving. Ms. Ogden was assigned at random to the group taking the standard form of Rebetron.

Researchers could not promise that she would benefit from the study, but regardless of which dose she received, they knew that for the full 48 weeks she would experience formidable side effects: fever, headaches, nausea, fatigue, aches and pains, anemia, and mental symptoms including depression and sometimes suicidal thoughts.

But she was grateful to get into treatment. "I went into it thinking that not only was I going to help myself, I would help others coming after me," she said.

HER plan was to watch her test results closely, particularly her viral load, a measurement of virus levels in the bloodstream. If it did not drop within a few months, and if the side effects were severe, she would consider dropping out of the experiment. Three months into the study, she is bitter. Only after it began, she said, did she find out that Schering would be withholding viral-load information until the study was finished. "I had no idea the extent these people would go to to get their drugs to the market. It's absolutely disgusting, the corporate greed in America."

Robert Consalvo, a spokesman for Schering-Plough, said the company was motivated not by greed but by the need to determine the best treatment. In this case, he said, the company decided to withhold viral loads in hopes of keeping patients from dropping out of the study. Too many dropouts would make it hard to complete the research. In any event, Mr. Consalvo said, being a subject in a study

is not the same as being a patient treated by a personal doctor. But, he acknowledged, drug companies may need to do a better job of communicating that to people who participate in experiments.

Ms. Ogden's objections to the study, echoed by other participants, reflect a tension that has always existed between researchers and their subjects. People who volunteer for studies are told that the purpose of the study is not to help them, but to gather information that may eventually help others.

But few people sign on out of pure altruism. They want the experimental drugs a study provides, often regarding them as "treatment" even when their safety and effectiveness have not yet been proved. And people who are feeling sick and vulnerable, trying to beat a disease that might kill them, may resent the feeling that their needs come second to a heartless quest for data.

"Sick people can't think of themselves as research subjects," said George Annas, chairman of the health law department at the Boston University School of Public Health. "They don't want to feel like they're being used as guinea pigs. They want to feel like patients. But they're not. They're guinea pigs."

Those like Ms. Ogden who enter studies because they cannot afford treatment are in the worst position, he added, as they feel at the mercy of whoever is doling out medication. Her antagonism over the viral-load test developed in part because the consent form she signed did not mention what would be done with the results, but she assumed that they would be reported to her, and she was counting on them to gauge her progress.

A decision to drop out would be inconvenient for the drug company, which wants as many people as possible to finish the study. But from a patient's point of view, quitting is logical. "If they see it's not helping, they want to get out," Mr. Annas said. "I don't blame them."

Ms. Ogden was further incensed that the viral-load numbers were not being given to her doctor, either. Mr. Consalvo, the Schering-Plough spokesman, said that in earlier studies, Schering had released viral-load data, but stopped when patients used the data to decide whether to remain in the study. The current consent forms state clearly that viral loads will not be revealed, he said, and medical centers have been sent amendments of the policy, though Ms. Ogden said she never received one.

The Deluge and the Black Sea

By John Noble Wilford
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Two Columbia University marine geologists, inviting incredulity, came forward in 1996 with astonishing evidence suggesting that a catastrophic flood of the Black Sea 7,600 years ago could have played a pivotal role in the spread of early farming into Europe and much of Asia. The deluge also may have cast such a long shadow over succeeding cultures that it inspired the flood account in the Babylonian epic of Gilgamesh and, in turn, the story of Noah in the Book of Genesis.

Now the geologists, William B.F. Ryan and Walter Pitman III of Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, say they have even more archaeological, geological and climate data to support their provocative thesis. They argue the case in "Noah's Flood: The New Scientific Discoveries About the Event That Changed History," which will be published next week.

While the authors have yet to win over skeptics of the Black Sea flood's possibly sweeping influence on history, other scientists have weighed in with new findings that seem to confirm the fact of the flood itself. In about 5600 B.C., with rising global sea levels, salt water from the Mediterranean and Aegean seas apparently burst into the Black Sea, then a landlocked freshwater lake. The Black

Sea rose with terrifying swiftness, inundating more than 60,000 square miles (155,400 square kilometers) of coastal plains and giving the body of water its current size and configuration.

The thesis, however, it is ultimately judged, has already inspired a wave of archaeological and other scientific research in the previously neglected Black Sea region. "It has captured the archaeological community's attention and enthusiasm," Mr. Ryan said in an interview. "The atmosphere has changed in just two years."

Working on Turkey's Black Sea coast at Sinop, Fredrik Hiebert, a University of Pennsylvania archaeologist, has detected possible ruins of a Stone Age village that was submerged in the flood. He is planning an expedition this summer to expand the search for pre-flood settlements. One objective is to determine if the people were farmers and so, as refugees from the deluge, might have spread the practice of agriculture into Europe for the first time.

Until Mr. Ryan and Mr. Pitman advanced their hypothesis, archaeologists had little reason to believe the pre-flood Black Sea shore was particularly hospitable.

In the last two years, moreover, new cores from the Greenland ice cap have revealed that the world underwent a cold, arid period, beginning in 6200 B.C. and ending about two centuries before the flood. Archaeological digs in the

Middle East appear to show many Neolithic settlements' being abandoned during this drought.

The timing of the flood, Mr. Pitman asserted, happened to coincide with archaeological evidence of newcomers in the Balkans and in northeastern Europe and with some of the earlier signs of agriculture in these regions. Some pottery at these sites is similar to that found near the Sea of Marmara in Turkey from around the time of the flood.

Making connections between people displaced by the flood and the rise of agriculture in Europe — even in Egypt and Central Asia — is the most controversial aspect of the Ryan-Pitman thesis.

In a review of the book in the current issue of *Archaeology* magazine, Mark Rose, the managing editor, said the farming connection "is predicated on a huge archaeological assumption" that there was a drought and it did force Middle Eastern farmers to find refuge on the pre-flood Black Sea coast.

He also noted that some farming had already begun to appear in parts of Europe 500 years before the putative flood.

He concluded, however: "If Ryan and Pitman are right about the inundation of the Black Sea, they have made a real advance in our understanding of the region's past. But making it Noah's flood and claiming it was the 'event that changed history' was a mistake."

LANGUAGE

Rebuke: A Complement of Synonyms

By William Safire
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — "Even in survival," wrote Jim Hoagland of *The Washington Post*, "Clinton will emerge from this experience chastised if not chastened, humiliated if not humbled."

There is a serious challenge to synonymists by a serious foreign-affairs columnist (even though he uses the reader-friendly "Jim" in his byline, which would raise the eyebrow of a bygone era's Walt Lippmann).

Chastise is from the Latin *castus*, "pure," and *chasten* means "to make pure" by some mode of discipline, with the positive connotation of being strengthened by moral correction ("whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth").

Chastise, as well as *castigate*, comes from the Latin *castigare*, which adds the force of *igare*, or *agere*, "to drive" to the purifying. Although both verbs mean "to correct by punishment or reproof," *chastise* adds coercion or severity to the moral instruction in *chasten*.

In the synonymy of censure, then, *punish* implies "to penalize for disobedience to authority"; the verb *discipline* suggests "to subjugate or bring

under control"; *chasten* means "to strengthen by setting straight"; *chastise*, "to inflict some coercion in correction"; *correct*, "to straighten for the purpose of reform"; and *castigate*, "to tongue-lash or rebuke severely."

As I parse the subtle Hoagland, his "chastised if not chastened" means "corrected but not truly purified," or "punished but not made *chaste*."

What about "*humiliated if not humbled*?" If you're a gardener, you know what *humus* is: that deliciously decomposed plant or animal manure that, mixed with your back yard's flavorless dirt, gives an organic boost to the roots of your flowers.

It is also the Latin word for "earth, ground," and is the root of both *humile* and *humiliate*, words that suggest the bringing of someone down to the ground, sometimes to the extent of figuratively grinding his face in the dirt.

The verb *to humble* originally meant "to make meek," as in Valentine's profession of *avowed affection* in "The Two Gentlemen of Verona": "O gentle Proteus, Love's a mighty lord, And hath so humbled me, as, I confess, There is no vice in his correction."

Now, however, it is part of the lingo of abasement.

Synonyms has an uplifting entry on *abasement*. After running through *de-mean* (loss of dignity), *debase* (degradation in value) and the Pentagon's favorite new word, *degrade* ("conveys a strong implication of the shameful-ness of the condition to which someone or something has been reduced" — take that, Saddam), M-W comes to *humile*.

Frequently used in place of *degrade*, "synonymizes the philological hairsplitter," in the sense of *demote* when the *ignominy of the reduction in rank is emphasized*... but often suggests a salutary increase of humility or the realization of one's own littleness or impotence." But *humiliate*, which used to be a synonym of *humile*, has gained a more forceful meaning of taking someone down: "comes closer to *mortify*, for it stresses chagrin and shame."

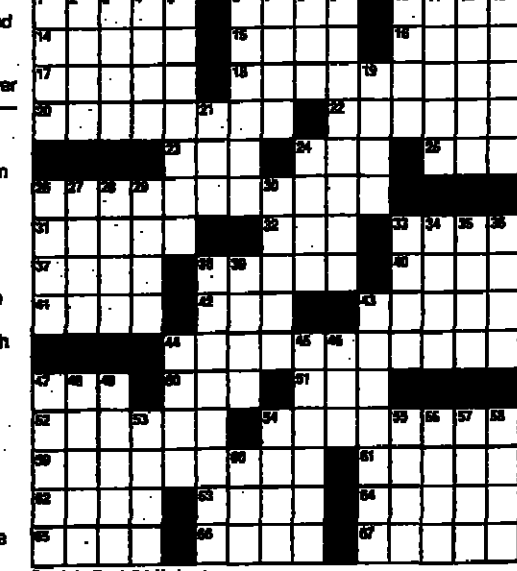
THEREFORE, when Hoagland writes that Clinton has been "*humiliated if not humbled*," I think he's saying that others have *degraded*, *debased*, *degraded* the president, but he remains neither *defeated* nor newly possessed of a sense of meekness and *humility*.

Whew! What a spectrum of meaning some columnists can pack in a single burst of alliteration.

CROSSWORD

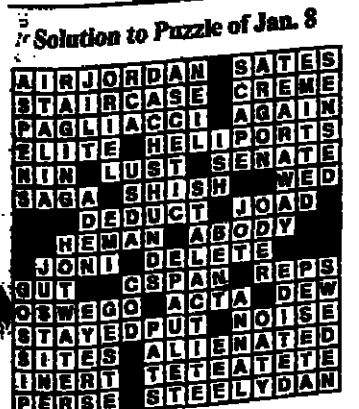
- ACROSS**
- 1 Begin, as school
 - 2 St. Peter's
 - 3 Square figure
 - 4 Broadway
 - 5 "Auride"
 - 6 Peter of "Casablanca"
 - 7 Cards up one's sleeve?
 - 8 Muslim holy men
 - 9 Any one of "God's creatures"
 - 10 Classic Betty Davis line from "Beyond the Forest"
 - 11 Second-place finishers
 - 12 Cell forth
 - 13 WHW's opposite
 - 14 DC Capital, to fans
 - 15 Lock opener
 - 16 Proceeding easily, at test
 - 17 Dallas's locale
 - 18 Metal to be refined
 - 19 Res — locution
 - 20 Tempers
 - 21 Flogged
 - 22 Underground vegetable
 - 23 Miss America wears one
 - 24 de Janeiro
 - 25 Word on mail from Spain

- DOWN**
- 1 Oscar-winning role for Tom Hanks
 - 2 Greyhound, e.g.
 - 3 Slalom curve
 - 4 It's perpendicular to long
 - 5 Fire retardant
 - 6 Tackle box item
 - 7 Mayberry jail habitus
 - 8 Actress Miles
 - 9 Alimony receivers
 - 10 Polson hy was Boudie
 - 11 Courtroom address, with "your"
 - 12 — to differ
 - 13 Lima's land phrase
 - 14 Appear
 - 15 Surrounding
 - 16 Medieval weapon
 - 17 Broadcasts
 - 18 Diplomat's aide
 - 19 Corn, to chickens
 - 20 Run out
 - 21 Uncle
 - 22 Sew with loose stitches
 - 23 Certain berth
 - 24 Weapon that's thrown
 - 25 More of —
 - 26 Radio man Don
 - 27 Train track
 - 28 Word after catch or hang



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See our
International
Franchises
every Wednesday
in The Intermarket



CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending Jan. 8. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Risk Name Cpn Maturity Price Cr Yt

Australian Dollar

138 Aus & N Zed zero 02/04/99 99.6787 4.1300
135 Morgan Stanley zero 02/25/99 97.8420 5.0400
204 Queensland Tty 6 01/14/00 107.1250 4.8700

Belgian Franc

225 Belgium 6 11/21/04 116.100 5.8900

British Pound

48 Avon 7.6500/01/22/03 98.4654 7.7600
95 Fin Retail House 11.124 03/30/00 102.1000 4.8600
112 Fidelity M&P 6 06/07/02 106.3254 4.6500
119 J.L.S. FRN 7.2548/09/30/00 99.0000 7.7700
127 Aramco zero 12/07/02 25.7300 5.8300
129 Auer FRN 6.5409/01/25/00 101.1854 4.8400
227 Owen FRN zero 12/15/00 99.4250 6.0000

Canadian Dollar

94 Canada zero 04/01/27 139.4860 5.7400
240 Canada Tbill zero 04/23/99 97.8940 4.7300

Danish Krone

15 Denmark 7 11/15/07 121.7600 5.7300
19 Denmark 9 11/15/00 109.3800 5.2300
38 Denmark 8 01/15/00 116.1400 5.1900
42 Denmark 8 09/15/00 124.2200 4.1100
55 Denmark 8 11/15/01 111.5200 7.1700
57 Denmark 11/15/01 116.5200 6.9100
73 Denmark 7 11/15/02 108.2800 5.3300
75 Denmark 6 11/15/02 108.2800 5.3300
80 Denmark 6 11/15/02 108.2800 5.3300
82 Denmark 6 11/15/02 108.2800 5.3300
85 Unilever 6 10/01/29 98.0000 4.1200
86 Realcredit Dan 6 04/01/29 98.0000 4.1200
88 Nykredit 6 10/01/29 98.0000 4.1200
98 Denmark T-bills zero 05/02/99 98.7774 3.8100
200 Denmark T-bills zero 05/02/99 98.7774 3.8100
226 Denmark 4 02/01/01 100.3500 3.9700
247 Real 4 01/01/02 100.3500 3.9900

Deutsche Mark

91 Germany T-bills zero 04/16/99 99.2170 2.9400
224 Venezuela 6.6669/03/12/00 99.3461 3.9600
229 Bayer FRN 3.5751/12/20/00 99.3461 3.9600

Euro

1 Germany 6 07/04/07 115.9900 5.1700
2 Germany 5 01/04/08 111.3700 4.7100
3 Germany 8 07/22/02 115.6100 6.2200
4 Germany 3 12/15/00 99.7700 3.0000
5 Germany 8 01/04/08 115.6100 6.2200
6 Germany 5 07/04/08 106.5400 4.4600
7 Germany 7 10/01/02 115.6200 6.2200
8 Germany 9 10/20/00 110.6200 6.1800
9 Germany 7 10/20/02 120.5400 6.1200
10 Germany 7 10/20/02 114.7400 6.1200
11 Treasury 8 08/20/01 113.8400 7.6900
12 Germany 8 07/04/08 102.5657 4.0100
13 Germany 4 04/04/06 115.2543 4.2000
14 Germany 6 01/04/07 115.3200 5.2000
15 Germany 7 12/20/02 114.1900 6.2400
16 Germany 5 02/22/00 104.2000 5.3200
17 Germany 6 05/12/05 115.5771 5.8000
18 Germany 4 06/14/00 101.3200 5.2000
19 Germany 4 01/05/04 111.4317 5.2500
20 Germany 7 01/29/03 114.4248 6.2300
21 Germany 6 09/15/01 111.6800 5.3700
22 Germany 4 07/04/28 101.9700 4.6500
23 Germany 4 09/17/99 100.6400 3.9700
24 Germany 4 07/04/27 128.7600 6.8900
25 Germany 5 01/28/99 104.9480 4.8900

Portuguese Escudo

219 Portugal 8 03/23/99 101.0150 8.4100

South African Rand

186 Argentina 8 12/20/03 94.3611 8.8800

U.S. Strength to Give Bonds Rough Ride

NEW YORK — The strength of the U.S. economy means the Treasury bond market is likely to have a grim week, traders and analysts said.

"I don't think people will want to buy bonds," said John Kowalik, senior vice president and portfolio manager at Oppenheimer Funds. He said the trend in the Treasury market, where a booming economy raises fears of inflation, had become bearish. Although he said bond yields remained attractive on an inflation-adjusted basis, "until you see it stop going down, there's no reason to step in."

The yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond ended Friday at 5.27 percent, compared with 5.09 percent at the end of the previous week.

The release of a stronger-than-expected employment report for December

U.S. Strength to Give Bonds Rough Ride

caused a sharp sell-off of Treasury issues Friday morning and eliminated the last vestiges of hope for interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve Board, according to many market participants.

"The one thing to remember now is there will be no Fed action," said Rich Yamarone, senior economist at Argus Research Corp., adding that the only reason the central bank cut short-term interest rates three times last autumn was distress in the financial markets, which has since dissipated.

On Friday, the government reported that nonfarm payrolls jumped by 378,000 in December, prompting worries that the economy will overheat and put upward pressure on prices. The unemployment rate fell to 4.3 percent from 4.4 percent in November, reinforcing those worries.

The robust jobs report suggested that

many of the important economic reports due this week will also come in stronger than had been predicted, adding to the pressure on bonds. Mr. Yamarone said he expected the industrial-production data due Friday to be the most critical report of the week.

But with the exception of the sell-off that followed the jobs report, Mr. Yamarone said, the market has not reacted to data the way economists say it should.

Instead, market players have been watching events in other countries, particularly Brazil, where a moratorium on debt payments to the federal government by the state of Minas Gerais has prompted concerns about the country.

"All eyes are focusing on Brazil," Mr. Yamarone said, and many sectors of the Treasury market already have factored in a devaluation of the Brazilian real.

New International Bond Issues

Compiled by Paul Floren

Issuer Amount (millions) Mat. Coup. % Price and week Terms

Floating Rate Notes

Bank of Nova Scotia \$400 2004 0.10 99.84 — Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.15%. Denominations \$10,000. (ABN Amco.)

Bank of Western Australia \$250 2002 0.15 99.93 — Over 3-month US Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.125%. (Merrill Lynch.)

Caisse Centrale des Banques de France \$300 2004 0.10 99.93 — Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.15%. Denominations \$10,000. (ABN Amco.)

Canadian Imperial Bank \$500 2000 0.10 99.945 — Inferred to 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.05%. (CIBC.)

Deutsche Bank Finance \$250 2003 1/4 99.769 — Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to \$1 billion. Fees 0.15%. (Deutsche Bank.)

National Bank of Canada \$500 2004 0.15 99.98 — Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.20%. Denominations \$10,000. (Barclays.)

Deutsche Bank Finance \$250 2003 1/4 99.769 — Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to \$1 billion. Fees 0.15%. (Deutsche Bank.)

Dresdner Bank \$500 2001 0.10 100 — Inferred to be Euro. Noncallable. Fees 0.05%. (Dresdner Bank.)

DG Hypothekbank EUR500 2001 0.08 100.05 — Over 3-month Euribor. Noncallable. Fees 0.10%. (DGB Bank.)

Finance for Danish Industry EUR500 2005 1/4 99.90 — Over 3-month Euribor. Noncallable. Fees 0.20%. (ABN Amco.)

Greece EUR1,250 2004 0.15 99.973 — Over 3-month Euribor. Noncallable. Fees 0.20%. (Kleinwort Benson.)

HSBC Trinkaus EUR150 2004 Euribor 99.99 — Inferred to be 3-month Euribor. Noncallable. Fees 0.20%. (HSBC Trinkaus.)

Rheinische Hypothekbank EUR200 2007 Euribor 100.16 — Inferred to be 3-month Euribor. Noncallable. Fees 0.20%. (Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.)

SGZ Bank Ireland EUR150 2004 Euribor 99.99 — Over 6-month Euribor. Noncallable. Fees 0.20%. (HSBC Trinkaus.)

Sueddeutsche Bank EUR200 2008 Euribor 100.16 — Over 6-month Euribor. Noncallable. Fees 0.20%. (Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.)

Wuestenrot Hypothekbank EUR500 2009 Euribor 100.13 — Inferred to be 3-month Euribor. Noncallable. Fees 0.20%. (Baden-Wuerttembergische Bank.)

Alliance & Leicester £70 2002 1/4 99.845 — Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to \$175 million. Fees 0.15%. (Tokai-Mitsubishi Int'l.)

Fixed-Coupons

Austria \$250 2008 5 100.392 98.55 — Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to \$250 million. Fees 0.225%. (Deutsche Bank.)

Bank Nederland Gemeentefonds \$200 2002 5 101.1355 — Refunded of 99.84. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.)

Bank Nederland Gemeentefonds \$100 2001 5 102.025 — Refunded of 101.15. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to \$500 million. Fees 1 1/4%. (CIBC.)

BNG \$750 2004 5 101.549 — Refunded of 99.934. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (ABN Amco.)

Credit Local de France \$750 2009 5 101.20 98.92 — Refunded of 99.55. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (Paribas.)

Daimler-Chrysler \$100 2002 5 101.121 — Refunded of 99.746. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to \$300 million. Fees 1 1/4%. (ABN Amco.)

Deutsche Siedlungs- und Landesrentenbank \$500 2004 5 100.903 — Refunded of 99.278. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Deutsche Bank.)

Denmark \$100 2002 3 98.1175 — Refunded of 98.92. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Commerzbank.)

Dresdner Finance \$500 2004 5 101.46 — Refunded of 98.20. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Kleinwort Benson.)

European Investment Bank \$1,000 2004 5 99.641 — Noncallable. Fees 0.25%. (ABN Amco.)

Europoint Investment Bank \$250 2008 5 100.99 — Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to \$1.75 billion. Fees 0.225%. (Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.)

Fahne M&P \$4,000 2007 5 99.43 — Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Goldman Sachs.)

Ford Motor Credit \$2,300 2009 5.80 99.662 99.28 — Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to \$7 billion. Fees 1 1/4%. (JP Morgan.)

Freddie Mac \$1,000 2008 5 98.668 — Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to \$7 billion. Fees 1 1/4%. (JP Morgan.)

General Electric Capital Corp. \$250 2003 5 101.056 — Refunded of 99.656. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Worthington Dillon Reed.)

General Motors Acceptance Corp. \$1,000 2009 5.85 99.903 99.40 — Noncallable. Fees 0.45%. (JP Morgan.)

General Motors Acceptance Corp. \$1,000 2002 5 99.793 — Noncallable. Fees 0.25%. (JP Morgan.)

Infra Bank for Reconstruction and Development \$1,000 2001 4 100.953 — Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to \$2 billion. Fees 1 1/4%. (ABN Amco.)

KfW Int'l Finance \$200 2000 zero 95.384 — Yield 5.04. Noncallable. Fees 0.0625%. (Nemura.)

KfW Int'l Finance \$500 2002 5 101.0735 — Refunded of 99.886. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Credit Suisse First Boston.)

Landesbank Baden Württemberg \$100 2009 6 100 — Refunded of 99.959. Callable at par in 2000. Fees 0.25%. (Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.)

LWB Capital Markets \$500 2004 5 99.60 — Noncallable. Fees 0.25%. (ABN Amco.)

Marks & Spencer Finance \$400 2004 5 99.161 — Noncallable. Fees 0.25%. Denominations \$100,000. (Worthington Dillon Reed.)

Philippines \$500 2008 8 98.448 — Noncallable. Fees 0.875%. (J.P. Morgan.)

Philippines \$500 2019 9 98.318 — Noncallable. Fees 1%. (J.P. Morgan.)

Rabobank Nederland \$150 2001 5 101.2385 — Refunded of 100.051. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Worthington Dillon Reed.)

World Bank \$1,000 2009 5 99.749 98.75 — Noncallable. Fees 0.25%. (Goldman Sachs.)

World Bank \$1,000 2001 4 100.9535 — Refunded of 99.264. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to \$2 billion. Fees 1 1/4%. (ABN Amco.)

World Bank \$125 2009 6 101.70 — Refunded of 99.95. Callable in 2000, thereafter coupon steps down to 6%. Fees 2%. (Santander.)

ASR Bank EUR150 2009 4 101.626 100.20 — Refunded of 100.051. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (Rabobank.)

Council of Europe Social Development Fund EUR500 2011 4 101.089 99.30 — Refunded of 99.439. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (Paribas.)

Council of Europe EUR101.25 2019 13 101.25 — Refunded of 99.75. Noncallable. Pays 13% in year one, 6% in year two, 4% in years three to seven and 8% minus 12-month Euribor thereafter. Fees 2%. (Lehman Brothers.)

Deutsche Finance Netherlands EUR2,000 2009 4 99.68 99.70 — Noncallable. Fees 0.225%. (Deutsche Bank.)

Deutsche Telekom EUR777 2008 5 107 107.30 — Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to 2 billion euros.

Dresdner Finance EUR1,000 2007 4 100.93 — Refunded of 99.23. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.)

Electricite de France EUR328.173 2003 3 100 — Refunded of 101.23. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to 1.5 billion euros. (CIC Meridien.)

General Electric Capital Corp. EUR400 2004 3 101.305 99.90 — Refunded of 99.68. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Paribas.)

Rabobank Nederland EUR250 2002 2 99.525 — Refunded of 98.20. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Credit Suisse First Boston.)

Rheinische Hypothekbank EUR2,000 2005 3 98.045 — Refunded of 97.87. Noncallable. Fees not disclosed. (Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.)

Nuernberger Hypothekbank EUR500 2005 3 98.37 — Refunded of 98.18. Noncallable. Fees 0.30%. (ABN Amco.)

General Electric Capital Corp. £200 2004 5 99.422 — Noncallable. Fees 0.25%. (Solomon Smith Barney.)

Inter-American Development Bank £100 2009 5 107.266 — Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to £200 million. Fees not disclosed. (Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.)

Slough Estates £150 2015 6 98.87 — Noncallable. Fees 0.625%. (Barclays.)

World Bank £100 2001 5 100.722 — Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue relating total to £250 million. Fees 0.1875%. (Worthington Dillon Reed.)

Ontario C\$250 2009 5 99.73 — Refunded of 98.055. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (RBC Dominion Securities.)

World Bank GRD40,000 2002 6 100.83 — Refunded of 99.6425. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Alpha Credit.)

Last Week's Markets

Stock Indexes Jan. 8 Dec. 31 % Chg. Money Rates Jan. 8 Dec. 31 % Chg.

US 100 9,432.32 9,189.16 +2.54 Discount rate 4 1/4 4 1/4 0

US 300 3,380.28 3,149.31 +7.30 Fed funds rate 2 1/4 2 1/4 0

US 500 5,941.11 5,634.83 +5.31 Prime rate 5 1/2 5 1/2 0

US 100 1,327.49 1,299.16 +2.17 3-month interest 0.50 0.50 0

US 100 2,544.91 2,172.76 +1.64 6-month interest 0.67 0.67 0

Japan 225 12,391.81 12,842.17 -3.25 Bank of Japan rate 6.00 6.00 0

FTSE 100 6,147.28 5,982.60 +2.50 Call money 6 1/4 6 1/4 0

Germany 300 4,688.80 4,485.94 +4.50 3-month interest 3.00 3.00 0

France CAC 40 4,245.42 3,942.66 +7.48 6-month interest 3.25 3.25 0

UK 100 5,992.84 5,802.39 +3.28 3-month interest 3.25 3.25 0

Spain IBEX 10,722.70 10,404.58 +3.17 6-month interest 3.14 3.14 0

World Index from Morgan Stanley Capital Int'l Perspective: 1,191.43 1,149.25 +3.62 LIBOR off. 10 290.50 290.60 +0.01

Euromarkets

U.S. 3-month term 5.23 5.17 0.06

U.S. 6-month term 5.24 5.18 0.06

U.S. 12-month term 5.25 5.19 0.06

3-month Euro 4.19 4.12 0.07

6-month Euro 4.19 4.12 0.07

12-month Euro 4.19 4.12 0.07

3-month Yen 2.38 2.32 0.06

6-month Yen 2.38 2.32 0.06

12-month Yen 2.38 2.32 0.06

3-month Swiss 3.25 3.18 0.07

6-month Swiss 3.25 3.18 0.07

12-month Swiss 3.25 3.18 0.07

3-month Canadian 3.25 3.18 0.07

6-month Canadian 3.25 3.18 0.07

12-month Canadian 3.25 3.18 0.07

3-month Australian 3.25 3.18 0.07

6-month Australian 3.25 3.18 0.07

12-month Australian 3.25 3.18 0.07

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

- The rise of Sun Microsystems
- Call centres - Europe's fastest-growing new businesses
- Will Britain and other holdouts embrace the euro?

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سكرا من الامال

By Louis Uchitelle
New York Times Service

fall in line with the changing pace of the real economy, almost as if the market were a meter. But over the past 12 weeks, and particularly the past four, the stock market has shot up quite on its own. Instead of leading the market, the real economy now follows it.

"There are many people who claim that we are in a new era of economic performance and the high stock market reflects this new reality," said Henry Kaufman, a Wall Street economist.

"There is some truth to that claim. But when all is said and done, what we really have in the stock market today is a speculative bubble."

The bubble creates the Fed's dilemma. In the past, Mr. Greenspan has cautiously avoided sharp changes in interest rates, instead fidgeting around

moves to mudge the real economy without provoking an overreaction in stock and bond markets.

But the bubble has become so sensitive that even a quarter-point move by the Fed is potentially calamitous, threatening wild stock-market swings with the power to drag the economy along with them.

Suppose the Fed finds itself wanting to cut rates to offset some new danger—a Brazilian meltdown, for example, or the unanticipated bankruptcy of some high-flying technology company. Wall Street would view the rate cut as further evidence that, when adversity strikes, the Fed stands ready to bail out the economy and the market. Stock prices would shoot up again, just when they are already 30 percent overvalued, according to *Wall Street* estimates.

“Another rate cut would whip up the near-mania that already exists,” said David Jones, chief economist at the bond firm Aubrey G. Lanston & Co.

What if the Fed decides it must raise rates, to head off inflation? The U.S. economy grew in the fourth quarter at a robust annual rate of nearly 4 percent, preliminary data suggest, and the December job figures came in strong Friday.

Consumer spending played a big role in the healthy showing, and rising stock prices fueled a big chunk of this spending. They also encouraged business investment, another source of growth.

Boom times such as these inevitably raise inflation concerns in the minds of Fed policymakers, even though inflation has been low. But they pose for the Fed the awful choice of raising rates and

and encouraging investors to go on thinking that the Fed cares more about sustaining high stock prices than controlling inflation — or raising rates to slow the economy, with consequences that could be very unpleasant.

"Raising rates is out of the question," said Robert DiClemente of Salomon Smith Barney Inc. "It would burst the bubble."

A plunging stock market would then chill the economy much more than the Fed intended. For example, a 30 percent drop in stock prices over 12 weeks could reduce economic growth by a painful 2.3 percentage points, according to a computer model of the economy developed by Macroeconomic Advisers Inc.

Top Fed officials, including Mr. Greenspan, are aware of the danger.

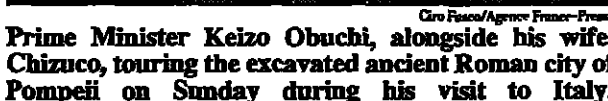
the stock market, although some hinted last week that they considered stock prices higher than the real economy could justify.

The Fed put itself in this tough spot unintentionally last autumn, when the Dow Jones industrial average was 26 percent lower than it is today and the Fed made three rate cuts of a quarter-point each to counteract the effects of the global financial crisis.

The Fed policymakers recognized, according to the minutes of their Nov. 17 meeting, that their third rate cut, approved that day, "might trigger a strong further advance in stock-market prices that would not be justified on the basis of likely future earnings and could therefore lead to a relatively sharp and

Bloomberg News

CYBERSCAPE



BIS Chief Cites Falling Rates and Gains by Stocks and Currencies

Speaking ahead of Monday's meeting at the BIS office here of international central bankers including the U.S. Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, Mr. Crockett said he was encouraged by banking reform efforts made in

Eleven Asian central bank governors will attend the informal meeting, which has only a brief set agenda. All major regional economies except Singapore and Taiwan will be represented. Also attending the meeting will be the

organization's push to expand beyond its traditional European base. As part of that push, the bank will hold one of its eight annual board meetings in Shanghai in July, Mr. Crockett said.

(Bloomberg, AFP)

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Service

Russia's economy is in a deep slump, and the value of the ruble has fallen about 10 percent just since Jan. 1. A survey by the Interfax news agency said five of Russia's largest banks were insolvent — meaning they

■ **Moscow Delays Debut of Euro**
Russia delayed introducing the euro on its currency markets Sunday, saying further technical preparations were needed; it sched-

The Central Bank assigned the euro an initial value of 25.89 rubles. The bank also said its gold and foreign currency reserves fell \$77 million in the week that ended Jan. 1, to \$12.22 billion, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

By Chris Allbritton
The Associated Press

In June 1998, America Online bought Mirabilis and access to the 12.8 million users it then had.

sector over the next five years, a retail consultancy, Verdict Research Ltd., said in a report.

•Recent technology articles:
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By David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

What has changed in the fundamentals that are supposed to govern currencies over the long term? Very little. So what is causing this?

day in the United States and in Germany — Europe's largest economy and a cornerstone of monetary union — suggest the European Central Bank will need to cut interest rates while the U.S. Federal Reserve can afford to

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches **the talks and that a combination was not**

Umberto Agnelli, chairman of Ifil SpA, an Agnelli family holding company and the dominant shareholder in Fiat, said that there was no deadline for

Volvo sold all of its nonautomotive assets after a failed merger with Renault SA of France in 1994. It has since emerged as a strong competitor in the truck, bus and construction equipment industries. (Bloomberg, AFP)

Jan. 9 Other Dollar Values Jan. 9

European Cross Rates

[illegible]

Sources: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (1990-91); IMF (1992). Other data from Readers.

Part. Expend	14,5696	495.08	23,7187	30,5633	102.51	254.56	10,264	90,9748	—	120.49
Total Expend	22,0877	433.46	27,004	35,346	85,0718	271.97	8,0921	75,9077	82,983	—

1,900.27	Dollar	71.906	34.9025	5.1445	4.6756	1.6923	0.6814	1.67534	1.9068	173.47	143.94
2.20371	Pound	18.838	57.8723	8.4022	0.3128	2.772	1.1182	1.70934	3.129	284.46	236.25

French words
French words
653957
653957
Spanish words

Consolidated prices for all shares traded	Stocks	Div Yld	100s High	Low	Close	Chg
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Stocks	Div Yld	100s High	Low	Close	Chg
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7	100	100	100	100
8	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	100	100
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92	100	100	100	

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Continued on Page 15

صلى الله عليه وسلم

U.S. Funds Closed 1998 In a Double-Digit Roar

Growth Stocks Led the 4th-Quarter Surge

By Robert D. Hershey Jr.
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In a dramatic comeback that cheered holders of more than 100 million mutual-fund accounts, the fund industry turned in a rollicking performance in the final quarter of 1998. The average U.S. diversified stock fund returned 18.8 percent, the biggest gain

INVESTING

for any quarter since 1982, when the business was less than one-eighth its present size.

Stimulated by a Federal Reserve Board whose interest-rate cuts clearly reflected more concern about heading off world recession than about fueling stock prices, the market rewarded the overwhelming

PepsiCo to Sell Stake in Bottler To Seek an Edge

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PURCHASE, New York — PepsiCo Inc. is selling part of its bottling business in the U.S. to the largest U.S. initial public offering ever, seeking to strengthen its distribution operation to better compete with its rival Coca-Cola Co.

The No. 2 soft-drink maker has disclosed plans to sell \$1 billion in Pepsi Bottling Group stock, but analysts predicted that the final amount would be \$3 billion to \$4 billion.

"We expect a much bigger deal," said Caroline Levy of Schroder & Co., a New York City investment bank.

Roger Enrico, PepsiCo's chief executive, is trying to consolidate the company's bottling and distribution operations to cut costs. Pepsi Bottling will acquire independent U.S. bottlers, the company said in a regulatory filing.

"Pepsi has lagged the Coca-Cola Co. and the Coca-Cola system in consolidating its distribution system," said Skip Carpenter of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette. "A large public bottler will lead the consolidation that the Pepsi system sorely needs, but it will take some time."

The filing did not indicate how much of a stake in the bottling operations PepsiCo would retain. But PepsiCo did say it would retain 100 percent of the Class B stock, each share of which has 250 votes for each common stock vote.

The bottling group handles 32 percent of PepsiCo's worldwide sales and 54 percent of the North American sales of such beverages as Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Lipton iced tea and Aquafina bottled water. The public offering will allow PepsiCo to focus on marketing and developing soft drinks while continuing the profitable practice of selling soft-drink concentrates to the bottlers. Bottlers, who mix the concentrate with carbonated water, package it and distribute the drinks, generally have lower profit margins. (Bloomberg, AP)

PAL Workers To Keep Jobs, Estrada Says

Reuters

MANILA — President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines said employees of Philippine Airlines Inc. would keep their jobs in spite of the entry of a new management team.

"They cannot do that," Mr. Estrada said when asked on his weekly radio and television program Saturday whether the management changes would mean retrenchment for the airline's employees.

Four executives of Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. are to join the Philippine carrier Wednesday. Among them is Peter Foster, Cathay's general manager for Taiwan and the Philippines.

Mr. Foster said Friday that he had resigned from Cathay and formed a private consultancy firm that had been given extensive powers to try to revive the Philippines' ailing flag carrier.

The new firm, Recent Star Services Ltd., is expected to soon announce details of a turnaround plan.

Mr. Estrada said, "The entry of Cathay executives into PAL is a good sign that it is now 'all systems go' for the airline."

Cathay had been negotiating for a stake in the carrier, but talks bogged down after a disagreement over the airline's management control and its valuation.

Philippine Airlines closed down in September because of labor disputes.

An agreement brokered by Mr. Estrada giving employees a 20 percent stake in the airline allowed it to reopen in October.

Various creditors have opposed a rehabilitation plan proposed by the airline. Mr. Foster said he would revisit secured creditors to gain approval for a revised plan.

MALAYSIA: Tycoons No Longer Immune

Continued from Page 1

Rashid Hussain, the controlling shareholder and founder of the group, took a "crew cut," in the words of Tan Sri Choo, a visiting fellow at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies in Kuala Lumpur. His stake in the group will be reduced to 17.3 percent from 29.3 percent without any cash compensation.

"Rashid could become the standard-bearer of the quiet revolution that ushered in a new era of corporate governance and accountability," Mr. Tan wrote after the deal was announced.

Accountability is not confined to business these days. Last week, the top police officer, Abdul Rahim Noor, resigned and took responsibility for the September beating of Anwar Ibrahim, the ousted deputy prime minister.

"It shows the world and the people that the prime minister is not protecting anyone," one cabinet minister said of Mr. Abdul Rahim's resignation.

But perhaps the most striking development has been the government's new attitude toward Mr. Halim and Renong. The company has been the embodiment of Kuala Lumpur's openly advocated policy of close links between government and corporate chiefs that has been referred to as "Malaysia Inc."

A few months ago, given Mr. Halim's political connections, his position might have been the most secure in the country. But suddenly his job looks tenuous.

The prime minister recently told the government adviser that, while he wanted to make sure that Renong as a company did not fail — about 10,000 jobs are at stake — Mr. Halim's job security was another matter.

"If we are going to bail out the company, why does he have to stay?" Mr. Mahathir was quoted by the adviser as saying in a recent cabinet meeting.

Mr. Halim is squeezed between foreign creditors eager to recoup their money and an increasingly bailout-weary government.

Analysts say the foreign creditors are seeking government guarantees for their restructured debt but that the government has balked at the prospect, thinking that it will be perceived as a bailout.

"The only way they could do it with-

out causing too much public uproar is that Halim has to be sacrificed," said Lai Tak Heong, head of research at SG Research Malaysia Sdn. in Kuala Lumpur. "That may well happen eventually. Rightly or wrongly, a lot of the talk about cronyism is focused on this one person."

Mr. Halim's bargaining chip is clear: He has built up goodwill with the government over the past few years. Unlike other companies that were given large-scale projects, Mr. Halim and Renong have completed major works on time.

The appointment Friday of his longtime mentor, Mr. Daim, to the post of finance minister, might also help secure his job.

But, the government adviser said: "He is one of the most prominent cronies, so to speak. Politicians are politicians, and they must respond to their constituency."

Toshiba Studying 3-Way Chip Pact

Bloomberg News

TOKYO — Toshiba Corp., the second-largest microchip maker in Japan, said Sunday it might form an alliance with Fujitsu Ltd., the fourth-largest chipmaker, and Sony Corp., the No. 2 consumer electronics maker in the world, to develop microchips.

Koichi Suzuki, vice president of Toshiba, said the company would welcome the three-way alliance, which would allow the companies to cut costs as well as development times for such devices as logic chips, which are to power future generations of consumer electronic goods.

"It's fully possible," Mr. Suzuki said. The three companies already have separate chip-development agreements with one another.

Toshiba said Friday it had developed the smallest dynamic random-access memory chip along with International Business Machines Corp. and Siemens AG.

SHORT COVER

Machine-Tool Orders

In U.S. Decline Again

WASHINGTON (Bloomberg) — U.S. orders for machine tools declined in November from the month before as demand dropped in every region of the country except the Northeast and South, an industry survey showed Sunday.

Orders from U.S. companies for domestic and foreign-produced machine tools fell 17 percent to an estimated \$440 million in November from a revised \$532 million in October, said a joint report from the Association for Manufacturing Technology and the American Machine Tool Distributors' Association. It was the second consecutive monthly decline in estimated orders.

Publisher Quits Talks With Mirror Group

LONDON (Bloomberg) — Trinity PLC, Britain's fourth-largest newspaper publisher, said Sunday it had dropped out of merger talks with Mirror Group PLC, the country's third-largest publisher.

The company's statement gave no reason for the decision. It was issued after reports in Sunday newspapers said the companies were once again holding talks that could create a £1.3 billion (\$2.1 billion) company.

Dresdner Bank Plans To Expand Worldwide

FRANKFURT (Bloomberg) — Dresdner Bank AG plans to bolster its position in Europe and the United States through acquisitions of rival investment banks, according to its chief executive, Bernhard Walter.

In an interview with the German financial daily Boersen-Zeitung, Mr. Walter said the third-largest German bank was "looking very closely" at the U.S. investment-banking market, though he added that it was not holding "concrete talks" at the moment.

Ssangyong Negotiates Selling 28% Oil Stake

SEOUL (Reuters) — Ssangyong Group has been negotiating with two major U.S. oil refiners to sell a 28.4 percent stake in Ssangyong Oil Refining Co., a group spokesman said.

The spokesman on Saturday denied news reports that it was talking with South Korea's largest refiner, SK Corp., to sell the stake in the refinery unit held by Ssangyong Cement Industrial Co.

For the Record

AT&T Corp., the largest U.S. telephone company, scrapped a plan to create a tracking stock for its cable-television and cellular businesses to focus on completing its Telecommunications Inc. acquisition. (Bloomberg)

The 11 countries that adopted the euro should strive to introduce euro banknotes and coins before 2002, the designated date, Elie Di Rupo, Belgium's economic affairs minister, said Sunday. (AP)

DOLLAR: Is the Impeachment Threat Behind Currency's Fall?

Continued from Page 11

As always when currencies lurch in one direction or another, the effects are complex and unpredictable. Some of the decline may simply be a feeling that the sharp rise in the dollar over the previous couple of years had gone too far.

American farmers, steelmakers and some big manufacturers have been complaining for more than a year that a strong dollar, combined with the collapse of most Asian economies, was killing their business abroad and undermining their efforts to compete with cheap imports.

For them, a weakening of the dollar is welcome news — and it perhaps partly explains the stock market's recent surge.

Still, no one seems to be celebrating at the U.S. Treasury. There, sharp fluctuations in currencies are viewed as one of the culprits for the past 18 months of global instability. Countries that had linked their currencies to the dollar —

chiefly Thailand and South Korea — could not sustain the connection as the dollar strengthened, making their products less and less competitive abroad.

Just because a rising dollar was bad news in 1997, though, it does not follow that a weakening dollar is necessarily good news in 1999.

The strengthening of the yen is grim news for Japanese exporters, and exports are the best hope Japan has of limping back to growth by the end of this year. Another bad year for Japan could mean another bad year for the rest of Asia because there will be no engine of regional growth.

In a strange way, therefore, Mr. Clinton's administration finds itself as worried about what a weak dollar means for Japan as what it means for America.

"We're in this odd position," one U.S. official said. "What looks like good news for us could in fact turn out to be pretty troublesome for the world."

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Figures as of close
of trading Friday, January 28

The image shows a page from a document, likely a financial statement or a report, with a table of data. The table has multiple columns and rows, with some cells containing text and others containing numbers. The text is in English and appears to be a continuation of a report. The table is partially obscured by a large, dark, irregular shape on the right side of the page, which seems to be a scanning artifact or a redaction. The text is mostly illegible due to the low resolution and the presence of the artifact.

This table shows the performance of Monday-Estate mutual funds through Friday and includes the top 4,000 funds in terms of assets. There are roughly 6,100 funds currently listed on Monday.

Group names are shown in bold face, with individual fund names in each group indented below. Funds that are not part of a group are not indented.

NAV is the net asset value, i.e. the portfolio value divided by the number of shares outstanding. As reported by the fund through Nasdaq, NAV excludes all sales or redemption charges. Change shows the variation from the previous Friday.

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the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older has increased by 50% (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997). The number of people aged 65 and older is projected to increase to 20% of the total population by the year 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997). The increase in the number of people aged 65 and older is expected to be even more dramatic in other countries. For example, the number of people aged 65 and older in Japan is projected to increase from 15% of the total population in 1990 to 25% of the total population in 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997). The increase in the number of people aged 65 and older is expected to be even more dramatic in other countries. For example, the number of people aged 65 and older in Japan is projected to increase from 15% of the total population in 1990 to 25% of the total population in 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1997).

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
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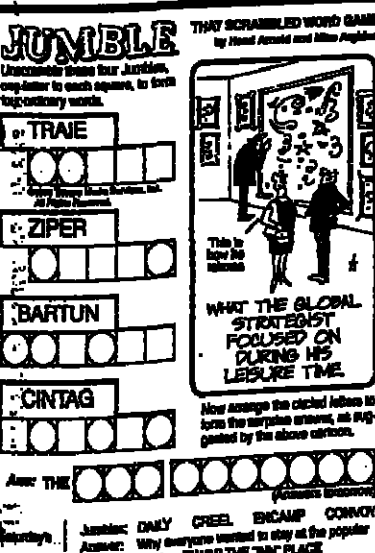
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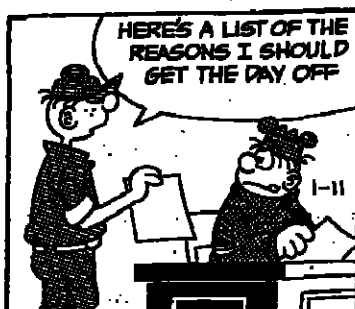
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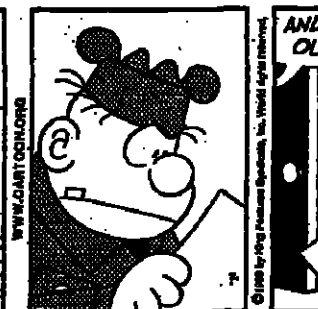
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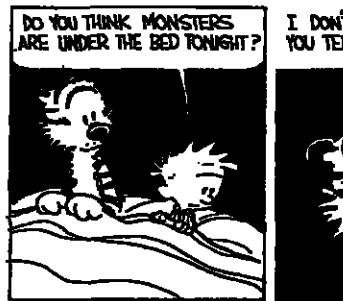
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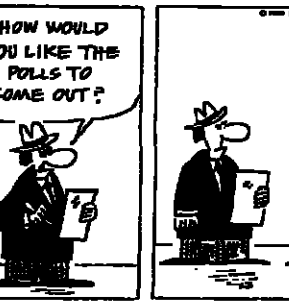
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SPORTS

Maier Loses For First Time In Austria, to Team's Rookie

The Associated Press

FLACHAU, Austria — Hermann Maier, the nearly unbeatable Austrian powerhouse, lost a World Cup giant slalom in front of his hometown fans Sunday to a younger and less experienced teammate.

Benjamin Raich, a 20-year-old skier in his first season on the World Cup, trailed in third place after the first heat then flashed down the slope on his second run to post a winning combined time of one minute, 27.02 seconds.

Maier, known as the "Herminator" because of his powerful build, took third.

Before the race Sunday, Maier had won every World Cup he had competed in on Austrian soil since joining the circuit last season.

Raich, a five-time World Cup junior champion said: "It was never my goal to beat Maier. My goal was to finish at the top of the podium, and I don't care who is behind me."

Maier, the overall World Cup leader and Olympic champion in the giant slalom, said his third-place finish was a "small victory," considering his disappointing finish in the event last weekend.

"Everybody was expecting a lot from me," said Maier. "And it was almost impossible to focus on the race. It was even harder than at the Olympics."

Raich edged Michael Von Gruenigen of Switzerland, the World giant slalom champion, by just five-hundredths of a second.

"I really wanted to win the race," said Von Gruenigen, who has triumphed 15 times in the giant slalom. "But I am not very disappointed with second place because the time difference is so small."

Raich joined the World Cup circuit this season and immediately began making a name for himself. He scored his first World Cup victory in a night slalom Thursday in Schladming, Austria, where he made a record comeback from 23d place after the first run.

"For years it used to be the same people in the top spots," said Von Gruenigen. "Now it is quite exciting to see newcomers to the circuit do so well. It gives you extra motivation."

More than 20,000 spectators lined the course Sunday. They cheered wildly and honked horns when it was clear that an Austrian had won the race.

"I think I have become quite popular with Austrian ski fans," said a jubilant Raich, who began signing autographs in the finish area.

After a disappointing ninth place in the first run, Maier tore down the second run in his most aggressive style, moving up to third.

"Raich is in great shape right now," acknowledged Maier, who shook Raich's hand after the race. "But I will strike back 100 percent."

Both Maier and Von Gruenigen said Raich was so successful because he felt no pressure to win, allowing him to stay relaxed and take more risks.

Maier, whose parents are ski instructors at Flachau, increased his huge lead in the overall World Cup standings to 811 points. Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway is second at 603, followed by Lasse Kjus of Norway at 592.



The Devils' Vadim Sharifjanov sending the Capitals' Joe Juneau sprawling in first-quarter action. Washington won the game, 3-2.

Lidstrom Lifts Red Wings

Late Goal Breaks a 2-2 Tie With Avalanche

The Associated Press

Nicklas Lidstrom's tie-breaking, power-play goal with 6:59 remaining lifted Detroit to a 3-2 victory over the Colorado Avalanche for the Red Wings' third triumph in their last 11 games.

Steve Yzerman and Martin Lapointe also scored for the host Red Wings on Saturday, who came into the game only 2-7-1 in their previous 10 contests.

Adam Foote got two assists, on flyers by Claude Lemieux and Peter Fors-

berg, for the Avalanche, who had won four of their last five road games.

Canadiens 3, Islanders 2: Stephane Quintal scored two goals, including the game winner on the power play early in the third period, as host Montreal beat the New York Islanders. Patrick Poulin also scored for the Canadiens. The Islanders are winless in seven games.

Earlier Saturday, the Islanders acquired goaltender Felix Potvin from Toronto for defenseman Bryan Berard.

Maple Leafs 6, Bruins 3: Derek King and Igor Korolev scored 33 seconds apart in the opening two minutes of the game as Toronto beat visiting Boston.

Mike Johnson scored twice, and Garry Valk and Sergei Berezin also scored for the Maple Leafs. Shawn Bates, Joe Thornton and Kyle McLaren scored for Boston, which outshot Toronto, 32-23.

Capitals 3, Devils 2: Olaf Kolzig made 39 saves and Washington, a Stanley Cup finalist a year ago, posted its first three-game winning streak of the season by defeating the Devils in East Rutherford, N.J.

Earlier Saturday, the Capitals scored for the Capitals. Vadim Sharifjanov

and Patrik Elias scored in the third period after Washington built a 3-0 lead against Chris Terreri.

Flyers 2, Hurricanes 0: Valeri Zelenchuk and Eric Lindros scored second-period goals as host Philadelphia beat Carolina and extended the NHL's longest current unbeaten streak to 13.

The game was marred by injuries to Philadelphia goaltender Ron Hextall, Flyers defenseman Dmitri Tertyshny, Carolina center Robert Kron and an NHL official, Gordon Broseker.

Penguins 2, Blues 1: Tom Barrasso stopped 29 shots to help Pittsburgh beat the visiting St. Louis Blues, and extend the Penguins' winning streak to six games. The Blues were caught short in a line change late in the second period, allowing Robert Lang to break a 1-1 tie.

Blackhawks 3, Predators 3: In Nashville, Nelson Emerson's first goal as a Blackhawk clinched a three-goal rally, and Chicago rallied from a three-goal deficit to tie the Predators. Emerson, who arrived in a trade with Carolina for Paul Coffey six games ago, fired a wrist shot, from the high slot past Tomas Vokoun's glove 8:59 into the third period.

Kings 1, Oilers 1: Stephane Fiset made 32 saves in his first start in almost a month, and Rob Blake scored his first goal in 2½ months as Los Angeles tied visiting Edmonton. Fiset was especially sharp during the final 25 minutes of his duel with Bob Essensa, stopping all 11 shots against an Oilers team that leads the NHL with 44 third-period goals.

Sabres 2, Sharks 2: Michael Peca's power-play goal midway through the third period lifted visiting Buffalo to a tie with San Jose. Miroslaw Satan scored Buffalo's other goal. Marco Sturm and Owen Nolan scored for San Jose.

A Brave Man, On and Off Court

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — I stopped thinking of John Thompson as a basketball coach a long time ago. Of course that's what he has done professionally for more than 30 years. And he did it well enough to win championships, coach the U.S. Olympic team, and earn — probably later this year — a spot in the basketball Hall of Fame.

But to frame him as essentially a basketball coach would be to shoot an air ball, to miss the point entirely.

Thompson, who resigned his post Friday as Georgetown University's head coach for personal reasons, evolved into a man who changed some fundamental elements of college basketball and also challenged traditional notions about education, contradicted virtually every stereotype people held about blacks in athletics and used the moral authority of his position to inspire a segment of urban America thought by many to be unreachable.

He changed this city in a way no mere coach ever could, and his departure from Georgetown means that metropolitan Washington will never be the same.

Basketball was Thompson's pulpit, from which he could rouse, examine, defy, confront. Most of all, he forced you to think.

When I was the Post's beat writer covering Georgetown basketball, Thompson returned phone calls usually at about 2 A.M. More than once I answered the phone semiconscious to hear him say, "Son, you want to sleep, or you want a scoop?"

Two minutes might be spent talking about basketball. The next 5½ might be spent dealing with whether standardized tests accurately predict academic performance in college, or why college athletes receiving "room, board, books and tuition" means they are indeed being paid.

Thompson wasn't looking for an agreement; he loved a forum, the exchange of ideas. I remember him saying, "You shouldn't care whether I agree with your opinion, son, you might care if I respect it."

He was willing to be a lightning rod for race and sports in America at a time when almost no one else had the courage to get the discussion started, because it surely would mean offending some people.

Yes, he could be angry and scowling, but he was intensely funny far more often. He's brilliant, complex, eclectic, profane, ridiculously well-informed and a bundle of contradictions that can never be unraveled.

Vantage Point/MICHAEL WILSON

That one could hear Thompson called a racist on one side of town, then hear him called an "Uncle Tom" on the other spoke to the contradiction but also reconfirmed that he is neither.

While I remember the games — some of which were the most riveting in college basketball history — in covering Thompson and his teams for five years, it's the conversations I will remember most, the intensely passionate answers a questioner could never anticipate.

Like the time in 1982 at the Final Four stage of the NCAA tournament when a reporter asked Thompson how he felt.

Basketball was John Thompson's pulpit, from which he could rouse, examine, defy, confront.

about being the first black coach to reach this point, and he said essentially that a great many black men before him had been denied the opportunity to do the same thing. It's the only appropriate answer to that question.

If the predominantly black teams and the take-no-prisoners style Georgetown played with on the court made Thompson an idol among young urban men, it was his message of discipline, education and self-reliance off the court that seduced others. While seemingly everyone else was becoming more permissive, Thompson was as demanding as a turn-of-the-century headmaster. Between 1982 and 1990, he was a cultural force. Of how many basketball coaches would you say that? He seemed tireless and invulnerable to many of us, which must have been an overwhelming burden.

"I'm not the great big idol with the golden head," he said Friday. "I'm John Thompson who's fragile and weak and has to address things that pertain to him also."

Regrettably, it never occurred to me until now.

Much of Thompson was exactly as it seemed, some of it was nothing as it seemed. Also, Thompson's bark was a whole lot worse than his bite.

Thirteen years ago, on the eve of NCAA March Madness, I was covering Georgetown basketball when my father died of cancer. When I arrived in Chicago at the funeral home, I found two enormous wreaths, the largest arrangements of flowers we received. One said,

"From John Thompson," and the other said, "From Georgetown Basketball." As if they weren't one and the same. Thompson had never even met my father.

You see, Thompson usually got the big stuff right.

But as the Hoyas were eliminated earlier and earlier from the NCAA Championship Tournament, people began to ask if Thompson had slipped.

Maybe. How many coaches don't take into account that after 1985 Thompson did not have the luxury of simply being a basketball coach.

A whole lot of folks could coach basketball, so what? But nobody else was the idol with the golden head. No amount of protesting will stop a great many people from seeing Thompson that way, even if a problematic marriage and a trying divorce have pushed him away from a life he loved so dearly.

I don't mean to diminish the basketball contributions. The Big East — with apologies to the University of Connecticut, Syracuse and St. John's — owes its popularity first and foremost to Georgetown. Before Thompson hit his stride, Big East basketball was a chummy little club sport that almost no one outside the region paid attention to.

Thompson insisted that the Big East schools leave their inadequate gymnasiums for major arenas so the games could be televised and Big East basketball could move into the big time. His pressure defense — it doesn't matter who played pressure defense first, Thompson perfected it — changed the way teams played offensively. Georgetown defense made coaches find secondary ball handlers and rethink traditional ways of getting the ball up court. If Thompson did not invent the play-10-men game of attrition, he popularized it. There was no more important game on the schedule for most teams than Georgetown.

Whether we will see that kind of basketball dominance here again, no one knows. But I'm less concerned for the moment with Georgetown basketball than with the fear that Thompson, without his vehicle, won't be heard as frequently, as loudly.

Sometimes, complex situations relating to sports cry out for a strong voice. Whatever Thompson winds up doing next, I hope he makes sure the new venue has a pulpit.

Australia Ousts Sweden to Win Hopman Cup

The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Australia defeated Sweden to win the Hopman Cup for the first time in the mixed-tennis tournament's 11-year history.

Jelena Dokic, the 15-year-old world junior champion, continued her string of upsets when she beat Asa Carlsson, 6-2, 7-6 (10-8), and Mark Philippoussis clinched Australia's victory Saturday with a 6-3, 7-6 (8-6) victory over Jonas Bjorkman.

Dokic, ranked 341st, added Carlsson to a list of victims that had included Amanda Sanchez Vicario and Sandrine Testud.

Carlsson, ranked 92d, was unable to

outclass her rival in the fierce baseline rallies. Dokic often increased the pace and caught Carlsson off-guard.

When Carlsson became more aggressive and forced her way back into contention, recovering from a 1-4 deficit in the second set, Dokic remained composed and held three match points at 5-3.

Although Carlsson survived then, Dokic finally claimed victory in the tiebreaker on her seventh match point.

"It's probably the greatest day of my life," Dokic said.

"I've never won something this big before, and it gives me great confidence."

Illness Sidelines Graf

Illness stomach forced the former world No. 1 Steffi Graf to quit after four games in the final of the Super-Power Challenge Cup in Hong Kong. The Associated Press reported.

Graf, who reportedly had an upset stomach, forfeited the match and the tournament Saturday to her opponent, Venus Williams.

Graf, 29, had advanced to the final with a 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Serena Williams. Venus's younger sister, Venus Williams, ranked fifth in the world, defeated Anna Kournikova of Russia, in the semifinals, 6-4, 6-3.

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SPORTS

Bad Break for 49ers: Falcons Seize Victory San Francisco Runner Injures Leg On First Play From Scrimmage

By Thomas George
New York Times Service

ATLANTA — A spin, a twist, changed the entire complexion of the playoff clash between San Francisco and Atlanta in the Georgia Dome. It was a 7-yard run and a spinning move by running back Garrison Hearst on the game's first play from scrimmage that made the 49ers play the rest of the game looking backward.

Hearst broke the fibula in his left leg on the play.

It was the spin, the twist that tossed the 49ers for a loop Saturday as the Falcons

The Falcons' quarterback, Chris Chandler, had a decent day, going 13 of 19 for 169 yards with one interception and eight passes for first downs.

But the critical factor was the running game. Atlanta produced one. San Francisco could not.

After Hearst went down, San Francisco ran the ball 19 times. No 49ers back had a run longer than Hearst's seven yards. Then Hearst's backup, Terry Kirby, bruised his leg. That hurt the 49ers, too. The 49ers averaged 2.3 yards a carry and finished with only 46 rushing yards. Young threw the ball 37 times.

Atlanta featured Jamal Anderson, a bruising back who crushed the 49ers. He scored on runs of two and 34 yards that put Atlanta ahead, 14-0, with 3 minutes 12 seconds left before halftime. He finished with 113 rushing yards; the Falcons totaled 136, averaging 4.1 yards a carry. Atlanta ran the ball 33 times and passed it only 19.

No Hearst, a Pro Bowl back. Plenty of Anderson, a Pro Bowl back. Both sides could deduce the obvious.

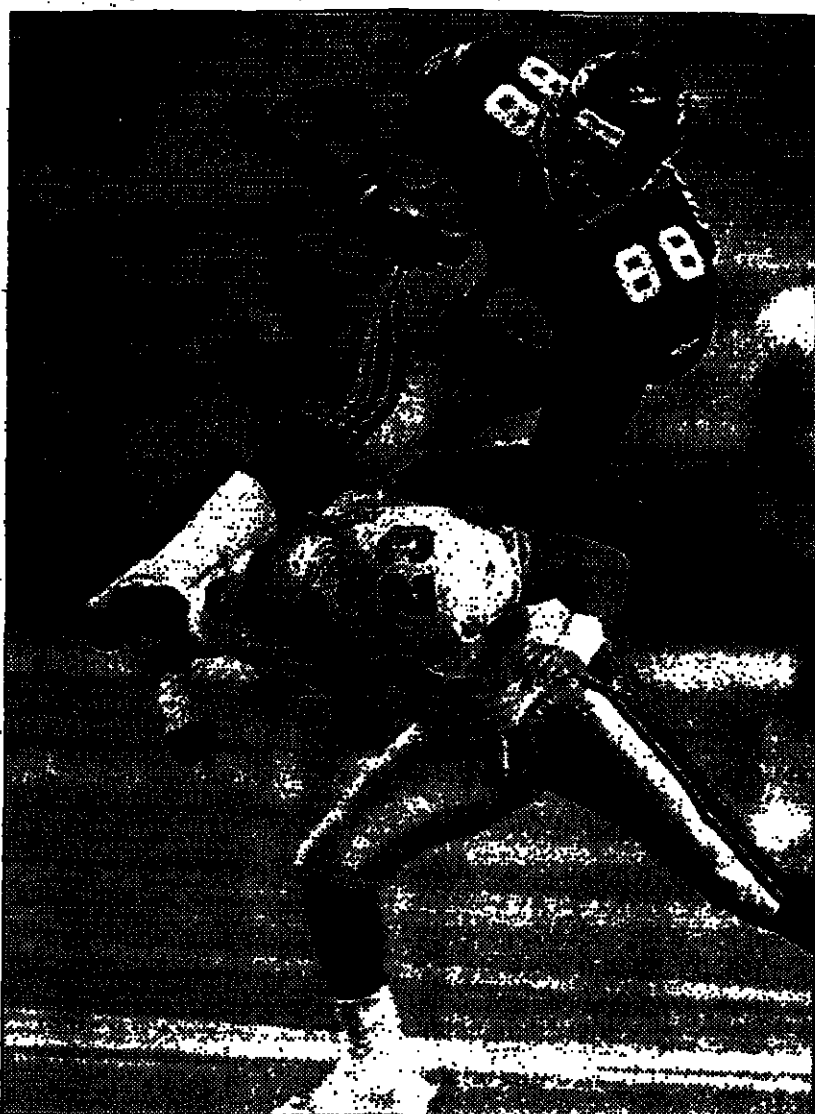
"My running game took a couple of hits," said Steve Mariucci, the 49ers coach. "A lot of responsibility was placed on Steve Young's shoulders and our passing game."

Nonetheless, San Francisco fought back.

The 49ers scored 10 points in the final 3:12 of the first half — a touchdown on a Young-to-Jerry Rice throw of 17 yards and a Wade Richey field goal as time expired. Atlanta led, 14-10, at halftime.

Atlanta continued to stick together. The Falcons intercepted Young with 4:44 left in the third quarter, with safety Eugene Robinson returning the pass meant for receiver J.J. Stokes 77 yards to the San Francisco 20. That set up Morten Anderson's 29-yard field goal with 1:16 left.

On the 49ers' next drive, early in the fourth quarter, safety William White



The Falcons receiver O. J. Santiago catching a pass in the first half from quarterback Chris Chandler and flying over the 49ers' Marquise Pope.

intercepted a Young pass meant for tight end Greg Clark and returned it 14 yards to the San Francisco 36. Another Anderson field goal followed.

Young, who completed 23 of 37 passes for 289 yards, then drove the 49ers 87 yards in 13 plays in 7:36, running eight yards for the score, and after a two-point conversion, it was suddenly a 20-18 game with 2:57 left.

Plenty of time for another rally by Young and the 49ers, who got to this game by defeating Green Bay on the last play of their wild-card game Jan. 3.

But this time the rally did not happen. "It made all of the difference in the world playing at home, getting that home-field advantage; I'm convinced that's a big reason why we won this game," Reeves said.

"You preach and teach, and these guys listened and accomplished this. This group collectively is as good as I've been around," he said. "They sacrifice to win. They respond. This is such a fragile business; you never know. But with this group of guys, I'll take my chances."

Broncos, in Super Form, Trample the Dolphins

By Charlie Nobles
New York Times Service

DENVER — Shannon Sharpe underestimated. After a 10-point loss to Miami in late December, the Denver Broncos' tight end had said that his team was 10 to 14 points better than the Dolphins.

They passed even that Saturday in the American Football Conference playoffs, as the Broncos dominated on both sides of the line of scrimmage and rolled to a 38-3 victory before a crowd of 75,729 at Mile High Stadium.

The victory advances the Broncos (15-2) to the AFC title game Sunday.

The Broncos scored on their first three possessions. Running back Terrell Davis, held to 29 yards in the Broncos' loss to Miami, rushed for 199 yards and

two touchdowns in 21 carries. Leg cramps early in the fourth quarter kept him from exceeding 200 yards.

And the matchup of veteran quarterbacks — Denver's John Elway and Miami's Dan Marino — went to Elway. He completed 14 of 23 passes for one touchdown and 182 yards.

Marino, who had pierced the Denver secondary for 355 yards and four touchdowns in the teams' last meeting, managed to complete 26 of 37 passes for 243 yards, but with no touchdowns and two interceptions.

The Broncos' linebacker Bill Romanowski and cornerback Darrius Johnson had the interceptions, fulfilling the vow by strong safety Tyrone Braxton that Denver's maligned defense would be rejuvenated in the playoffs.

Denver's defense even added a touchdown midway through the final period. Neil Smith, a Broncos' end, scooped up wide receiver Oronde Gadsden's fumble at the Miami 21 and took a couple of stutter steps, thinking the whistle had blown. When it became apparent that it had not, the 6-foot-4-inch (1.93-meter), 269-pound (122-kilogram) Smith began struggling down the field, with only the Dolphins' center, Tim Ruddy, in serious pursuit.

Ruddy made a diving tackle attempt at the Denver 20 that failed, and Smith finished off his 79-yard run in the end zone.

After stopping the Dolphins in three

plays to open the game, the Broncos put together one of the great textbook drives in National Football League playoff history. There was an occasional flash of greatness in the 14-play, 92-yard maneuver that consumed 7 minutes 56 seconds.

The greatness came on Denver's second play, when Elway underthrew wide receiver Rod Smith, but Smith managed to reach back over defender Sam Madison's left shoulder to pull in a 15-yard pass. Elway completed five of six passes in the drive for 48 yards. His only misfire almost was — and should have been — caught by the Dolphins' linebacker Robert Jones.

In between, Davis rushed seven times for 38 yards, including the one-yard touchdown. Davis invariably attacked Miami's left side, behind tackle Tony Jones and guard Mark Schlereth, and had gains of 13 and 11 yards as Denver established the tone of the game.

Miami (11-7) could not muster a first down on its next series, so the Broncos' offense picked up where it had left off. This time, however, the Broncos practiced more clock economy by gaining yards in huge chunks. It took them just 2:18 and four plays to move 66 yards for a 14-0 lead.

Denver wide receiver Ed McCaffrey made a diving 33-yard reception to get things started. Davis then gained six yards and caught a seven-yard pass before his 20-yard scoring run. He started around right end, then cut back and left Dolphins' defenders flailing. The last to miss, after he was faked out of position, was cornerback Ray Hill.

Miami then stopped the bleeding for a while with a 76-yard drive of its own. The difference was, after reaching the Denver two-yard line, it had to settle for a 22-yard field goal from Orlando Mare.

Still, with 10:07 left in the second quarter, the Dolphins thought they were starting to get some momentum.

The Broncos quelled those thoughts on their next possession by going 87 yards in 11 plays. This drive took 5:28 and featured Davis's 28-yard run, a 16-yard Elway pass to Smith. The payoff was the twisting 11-yard run of the backup running back Derek Loville.

Loville headed right, then — just as Davis had done on the previous touchdown — cut to the middle and shook off several arm tackling attempts to burst into the end zone.



The Broncos' running back Terrell Davis breaking into the end zone.

So, Fans and NBA Ask, Where's Michael Jordan?

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Michael Jordan has disappeared. It's not the first time. But people now are looking for Jordan because they want an answer to the question they have been asking since he sank the winning jump shot in the final game of the 1998 National Basketball Association championship series in Salt Lake City in June.

Perhaps the question most prominent in basketball circles is: Will M.J. or won't M.J. play basketball for profit again? Or is he retired from the game, the Bulls, the NBA and fans' hearts once and for all?

A call to the Chicago Bulls' office elicited this reply: "He's not around here as far as we know. There was a rumor he was in New York. But last we heard he was in the Bahamas playing golf."

Jordan's agent, David Falk, said by phone Friday that Jordan was "out of the country."

"He won't be back until early next week," Falk added, "and he won't make a decision until he returns. How soon after that will he decide, I have no idea. I'm not sure he does. But for now,

he's sitting on a \$50 million cap with the Bulls, and they can't really sign anyone until he decides."

Others yet to be signed by the Bulls include two additional stars of their recent championship teams, Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman.

Jordan has had quite a long time to consider whether he will come back but, Falk said, "things were up in the air with the lockout."

"So Michael will make his decision when he feels comfortable. He wants to be careful and make the right decision for himself. It's his career, it's his future."

The Bahamas had previously been checked out. A caller to the hotel where Jordan was supposed to be staying asked for Michael Jordan.

"Sorry," came the reply, "no one by that name is registered. The caller then asked for the alias Jordan often uses. The receptionist said the person registered under that name had checked out."

Sources in the upper reaches of the Bulls' management said privately the other day that he did not believe Jordan would return to basketball. Charles Barkley said Jordan had told him that

The NBA/IRA BERKOW

was curtains for his career. Billy Hunter, executive director of the players association, said he believed Jordan probably would be back. And Jordan may not be his hand until the new collective bargaining agreement is signed in a few days and teams go back to work.

Many believe that Jordan's return hinges on whether Pippen comes back to the Bulls. Jordan has never won a championship without his smooth forward. Pippen has said he will never play for the Bulls again because he bears such enmity toward management, but he has also said that he would never play for the Bulls again, and has.

Some believe that Pippen's decision hinges on Jordan's.

Early last season, Jordan said he would not entertain thoughts of playing another season if Phil Jackson did not return as the Bulls' coach. Jackson has made it definite that he will not return. Jordan, meanwhile, has changed his tune, saying he might play for another coach if he felt like it.

The new Bulls' coach will surely be Tim Floyd, and Jordan has said he was

impressed with what Floyd had been doing — studying the Jackson style of play, which would make Jordan comfortable — and what Floyd had been saying: Floyd had been effusive in his praise for Jackson and Jordan.

Others contend that the perfect way for any great athlete to go out is when on top. Jordan certainly did that last season, hitting the winner in the final game. Not only that, but at age 35, he was the league's leading scorer for the 10th time and the Most Valuable Player for the fifth time — and the Most Valuable Player in the championship series.

Jordan is playing as well or better an all-round game than he ever has. And he loves the competition.

In a shortened, 50-game regular season, Jordan would not have to work quite as hard or as often as before. And, finally, the lockout and the labor battle have left fans with a taste of ashes in their mouths. Not only do the Bulls need Jordan, but the league feels it does. Even rival players hope Jordan will come back to ease tensions and excite the customers.

SCOREBOARD

ICE HOCKEY

NHL FINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	22	11	45	114	100
Pittsburgh	19	17	45	107	97
N.J. Rangers	15	17	37	105	109
N.Y. Islanders	12	25	29	120	130

NORTHEAST DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	21	10	48	129	114
Buffalo	21	10	48	109	77
St. Louis	19	14	44	104	89
Montreal	14	17	25	92	107

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	18	16	43	106	101
Florida	13	14	38	98	94
Tampa Bay	9	27	21	81	137

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	17	19	44	110	96
San Jose	14	21	34	92	121
Chicago	11	22	26	87	129

NORTHWEST DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	17	19	44	98	104
Edmonton	16	18	25	110	103
Vancouver	13	22	25	104	125
Colorado	13	24	21	91	125

PACIFIC DIVISION

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	25	6	56	127	75
Phoenix	21	10	48	97	76
Anaheim	15	16	38	94	94
Los Angeles	15	21	34	94	104
San Jose	12	17	14	87	95

WEEKEND RESULTS

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis 3, Dallas 2	1	0	0	3	3	2
Edmonton 3, Phoenix 2	1	0	0	3	3	2
San Jose 3, Dallas 2	1	0	0	3	3	2
Phoenix 3, Dallas 2	1	0	0	3	3	2
Phoenix 3, Dallas 2	1	0	0	3	3	2

UPCOMING GAMES

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis 3, Dallas 2	1	0	0	3	3	2
Edmonton 3, Phoenix 2	1	0	0	3	3	2
San Jose 3, Dallas 2	1	0	0	3	3	2
Phoenix 3, Dallas 2	1	0	0	3	3	2
Phoenix 3, Dallas 2	1	0	0	3	3	2

FOOTBALL

NFL PLAYOFFS

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta 20, San Francisco 18	1	0	0	20	18	18
Dallas 30, Kansas City 17	1	0	0	30	17	17

WILDCARD PLAYOFFS

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

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Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
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San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

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San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

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San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

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Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
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San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

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Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
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San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

CHAMPIONSHIP

Game	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10
San Francisco 24, Dallas 10	1	0	0	24	10	10

CRICKET

NEW ZEALAND VS. INDIA

1	0	0-1
0	0	0-1

Cole Scores 2 Goals in Victory Over West Ham

BASEBALL Roger Maris missed the Hall of Fame ballot cut and will be missing from the list of candidates considered by the veterans committee March 2 in Tampa, Florida. Maris, whose record of 61 home runs was broken last season by Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, was among roughly 100 players dropped by the screening committee, which cuts the list of candidates to between 10 and 15 players. (AP)

The other goalfest Sunday came in Sardinia, where host Cagliari upset AS Roma, 4-3, thanks to two goals apiece by Roberto Muzzi and Fabian O'Neill.



SPAIN Mallorca, the team with the tightest defense in the Spanish first division, stayed in first place by beating

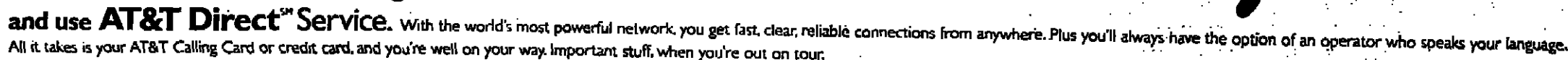
By Jere Longman
New York Times Service

Referring to the escort service investigation, as well as acknowledged wrongdoings such as direct cash payments as high as \$70,000 to IOC members, Seed said: "It's quite appalling. It goes against all the values of this community."

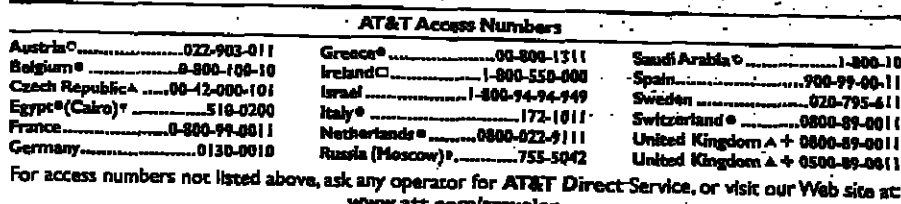
The Jaguars, who have not beaten a winning team on the road since a 30-27 playoff victory in Denver two years ago, did not go quietly. With the Jets leading, 31-24, and in easy field goal range, Testaverde lofted a pass into the end zone that was intercepted by a rookie safety, Donovan Darius, with about 2½ minutes left. But instead of downing the ball, Darius tried to run and was tackled

Neither team managed much in the first quarter, and the Jaguars' quarterback, Mark Brunell, had three passes blocked. Jacksonville barely got a chance to improve in the second quarter, when the Jets held the ball for all but 51

Mistakes continued to plague the Jags early in the second half.



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